

# THE METROPOLITAN.

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MARCH, 1837.

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## LITERATURE.

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### NOTICES OF NEW WORKS.

*Falkner.* By the Author of "Frankenstein," "The Last Man," &c. &c. 3 Vols.

A finer subject for contemplation, or one better adapted to the pages of a novel, could not have been conceived than the one that Mrs. Shelley has chosen for the work before us. The action of a never-dying remorse upon the soul of one naturally noble, is a grand and terrible picture, and not without the most important moral uses. To evolve all the phases of great mental action, manifold characters or intricacies of plot are not only unnecessary, but would become blemishes as well as impediments. Falkner, the hero, loved before he could yet write himself man, though, by a long series of persecutions, every manly feeling had in him become precocious. The object of this passion is a beautiful and lowly maiden, of sweet, but subdued sensibilities, angelic purity of mind, and in whom passion is dissolved into tenderness. Falkner is protected, fostered, and appreciated by her and her widowed mother, and by these only of all human beings. Fate sends him to the East Indies, from whence he returns, after an absence of ten years, unchanged as to his affections, a rich, and largely-estated gentleman. He seeks out his Alithea, and finds her married, with an infant son of between seven and eight years of age. Her husband, a decayed coxcomb, is absent; Falkner tempts the lady into a meeting, and carries her off forcibly in a chaise. The shock renders her insensible; this insensibility is followed by a profound sleep in a lone hut, to which she had been conveyed, and, whilst he and his accomplice are preparing to carry her home again, being startled by the effects of the abduction, she awakes, early in the morning, during their absence, and in her flight across a swollen ford, she is unfortunately drowned. Falkner and his comrade see this too late for rescue; the body is, however, recovered, and buried immediately in the sand-heaps that are adjacent to the sea coast. Osborne, the accomplice, flies to America, and Falkner, contemplating suicide, repairs, on the following evening, to a rural churchyard in the neighbourhood, and, as he pulls the trigger of his pistol, his arm is struck aside by a little girl, the heroine of the tale, who is praying over her mother's grave—and thus the ball proves harmless. This event changes the current of Falkner's ideas; he resolves to bear the burthens of life, and calls the orphan henceforward his daughter. They travel together for years, and thus they are cemented by an affection

stronger than that, though entirely of the same nature, which subsists between father and daughter. The reader will perceive that these situations afford ample scope for the employment of that earnest argument against sin, and that deep-toned eloquence that reverberates so solemnly through the heart. Every one will recognise Mrs. Shelley's energetic language in the following passage, which relates to the disappearance of the lady whom it is supposed by some that Falkner has murdered, but more generally that the lady had eloped to her dishonour. The words proceed from the mouth of her son.

“ ‘ It is dreadful, very dreadful, to be told—to be persuaded that the idol of one's thoughts is corrupt and vile. It is no new story, it is true—wives have been false to their husbands ere now, and some have found excuses, and sometimes been justified; it is the manner makes the thing. That my mother should have left her happy home—which, under her guardian eye, was Paradise—have deserted me, her child, whom she so fondly loved—and who even in that unconscious age adored her—and her poor little girl, who died neglected—that year after year she has never inquired after us—nor sent nor sought a word—while following a stranger's fortune through the world! That she whose nightly sleep was broken by her tender cares—whose voice so often lulled me, and whose every thought and act was pure as an angel's—that she, tempted by the arch fiend, strayed from hell for her destruction, should leave us all to misery, and her own name to obloquy. No! no! The earth is yet sheltered by heaven, and sweet and good things abide in it—and she was, and is, among them sweetest and best!’ ”

It would not be right to let the reader too far into the arcana of the story. An affection has arisen between the son of the lost lady, and Elizabeth, the adopted daughter of Falkner; the latter, no longer able to bear his compunctious visitings, determines to make a confession of his crime to the son, under the supposition that that son will call him into the field, and thus avenge himself on the author of his own and his family's miseries. This he would have done, had not his father taken other steps, that of bringing the hero to a trial for the murder. The excitement of this part of the story, after the hero is immured in the county jail, is really dreadful. Elizabeth, though her own powerful and rich relations come forward to claim her, will not desert her cherished and adopted father. The imprisonment is prolonged. Thus the trial terminates:—

“ When once the trial had begun, and his preliminary part had been played, Falkner sat down. He became, to all appearance, abstracted. He was, indeed, thinking of things more painful than even the present scene; the screams and struggles of the agonized Alithea—her last sad sleep in the hut upon the shore—the strangling, turbid waves—her wet, lifeless form—her low, unnamed grave dug by him: had these been atoned for by long years of remorse and misery, or was the present ignominy, and worse that might ensue, fitting punishment? Be it as it might, he was equal to the severest blows, and ready to lay down a life in compensation for that of which he, most unintentionally, and yet most cruelly, had deprived her. His thoughts were not recalled to the present scene, till a voice struck his ear, so like hers—did the dead speak? Knit up as he was to the endurance of all, he trembled from head to foot; he had been so far away from that place, till the echo, as it were, of Alithea's voice, recalled him: in a moment he recovered himself, and found that it was her child, Gerard Neville, who was giving his evidence.

“ He heard the son of his victim speak of him as innocent, and a thrill of thankfulness entered his soul; he smiled, and hope and sympathy with his fellow-creatures, and natural softening feelings, replaced the gloomy bitterness and harshness of his past reflections. He felt that he should be acquitted, and that it became him to impress all present favourably; it became him to conduct himself so as to show his confidence in the justice of those on whom his fate depended, and at once to assert the dignity of innocence. From that time he gave himself entirely up to the details of the trial; he became attentive, and not the less calm and resolute, because he believed that his own exertions would crown the hour with success. The spectators saw the change in him, and were roused to double interest. The court clock,

meanwhile, kept measure of the time that passed ; the hands travelled silently on—another turn, and all would be over;—and what would then be?"

" At last Falkner himself was asked what defence he had to make. As he rose, every eye turned on him, every voice and breath were hushed—a solemn silence reigned. His words were few, spoken calmly and impressively ; he rested his innocence on the very evidence brought against him. He had been the cause of the lady's death, and asked for no mercy ; but for her sake, and the sake of that heroic feeling that led her to encounter death amidst the waves, he asked for justice, and he did not for a moment doubt that it would be rendered him.

" ' Nor could you doubt it as you heard him,' continued Osborne. ' Never were truth and innocence written so clearly on human countenance as on his, as he looked upon the jury with his eagle eyes, addressing them without pride, but with infinite majesty, as if he could rule their souls through the power of a clear conscience and a just cause ; they did not hesitate—the jury did not hesitate a moment ; I rushed here the moment I heard the words, and now—he is come.' "

The reader may now form a tolerable idea of the scope and of the merits of this novel. Its principal characteristic is power. Its moral is impressive. The greatest punishment that a generous mind can endure is remorse, and no work ever painted remorse in colours more vivid. The only fault that we can find with it, as a literary production, is, that its tone is too universally sombre. It requires relief. There is one well-drawn character in it, that of the conscientious governess, that approaches the humorous. We see too little of her. An occasional burst of the sunshine of cheerfulness would have thrown out the gigantic proportions of the dark miseries to a much greater effect.

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*On the Deformities of the Chest and Spine, illustrated by Plates.*  
By WILLIAM COULSON, Member of, &c. &c. &c. &c.

We are not in the habit of noticing second editions when the first has already passed under our review ; but the one before us is so much enlarged and improved, that we cannot forbear repeating our commendations. That this work is frightfully necessary, the prevalence of phthical complaints among our fairest of the fair sex, too sorrowfully prove. In a country so humid as is England, every facility should be given to the perfect expansion of the chest, and the free play of the muscles about the waist ; whilst those dear creations, the objects of so much idolatry, (among which they may reckon ours and *their own*,) do all they can, by squeezing themselves into the smallest possible compass, to make the office of respiration laborious. Now all this proceeds from a mistake on their parts, as to what are the real lines of beauty. These lines, they may depend upon it, are not their stay-laces. Let them read Mr. Coulson's work attentively, and they will then see the dreadful risks they are running, in order to make themselves actually less beautiful. To return to the line of beauty, we assure them that it does not consist in a succession of abrupt ins and outs ; but in a nicely graduated and flowing curve, but little deviating from a straight line. Vide Hogarth, *en passant*. Those unfortunate ten syllables,

" Small by degrees, and beautifully less,"

have much to answer for ; not that they are vicious in themselves, but that the ladies (God bless them !) have viciously construed them. We assure them that " small by degrees," does not mean the rapid diminution of the upper cone of an hour-glass ; and " beautifully less," the narrow aperture that divides it from the lower cone. For ourselves, we assure them, whatever the French corset makers may say to the contrary,



that we generally look upon an extremely attenuated waist as an indication of a similar understanding, and a view of one suddenly, always sets us coughing by sympathy ; for we are sure that the possessor has, or soon will have, a distressing cough herself.

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It may not be uninteresting to the generality of our readers to become acquainted with the opinion of an eminent French critic, as to the merits of those works, that have become so popular among ourselves, proceeding from the pen of Captain Marryat.

*Les Romans du Capitaine Marryat, Traduits de l'Anglais, par M. DEFAUCONPRET. Jacob Fidèle ; Pierre Simple ; Japhet à la recherche d'un Père.* Chez Charles Gosselin, libraire-éditeur, 9-rue des Fossés-Saint-Germain-des-Prés.

Le capitaine Marryat est depuis la mort de Walter Scott le plus fécond et le plus renommé des romanciers de la Grande-Bretagne ; ses ouvrages sont recherchés avec un empressement que l'ingrat public de France n'a pas généralement pour les productions des littérateurs faciles qui s'occupent de ses plaisirs. Quelques-uns ont paru d'abord dans un de ces nombreux *Magazines* ou revues que l'industrie littéraire de nos voisins a multipliés avec un si prodigieux succès. Peut-être aurais-je dû dire tous ; car la forme des romans du capitaine Marryat est toujours la même, et il est aisé de se convaincre qu'ils ont dû avoir tous la même destination. Si ma mémoire ne me trompe pas, on en avait déjà traduit en français des scènes détachées ; au moins ai-je pu reconnaître certain chapitre de *Pierre Simple*, par exemple. Voici qu'enfin le capitaine Marryat est admis à partager un honneur qui, avant lui, n'avait été fait qu'à Walter Scott et à Fénimore Cooper : la traduction de la collection complète de ses romans se publie en ce moment à Paris ; les premiers volumes ont été accueillis dès leur apparition avec une faveur que justifie assez la double renommée de l'auteur et du traducteur.

Les trois romans qui ont paru jusqu'à ce jour sont : *Jacob Fidèle*, *Pierre Simple*, et *Japhet à la recherche d'un Père*. C'est de ceux-là seulement que j'aurai à m'occuper dans cet article. Encore m'attacherai-je plus à signaler les qualités et les défauts dont la réunion forme le caractère particulier du capitaine Marryat, qu'à faire connaître la succession des aventures à travers lesquelles il promène ses héros. Je ne crois pas que le traducteur se soit astreint à suivre l'ordre chronologique des publications de l'écrivain original ; mais sans doute il aura voulu montrer, dès son début, le capitaine Marryat dans toute la variété de son talent et dans toute la richesse de son imagination. Le capitaine Marryat tient plus particulièrement à ce que nous appelons en France, avec assez d'impropriété dans l'expression, la littérature maritime. Il n'est en aucune façon de l'école de Walter Scott ; mais si j'avais à désigner le roman qui a pu lui inspirer ses premiers écrits, je nommerais le *Pilote* de Fénimore Cooper. Cependant des trois romans qu'a traduits jusqu'à présent M. Defauconpret, un seul, *Pierre Simple*, déroule à nos yeux ces grandes scènes de mer qui jettent sur la vie des marins un intérêt si puissant. *Jacob Fidèle* est aussi marin à la vérité, mais marin d'eau douce, marin de la Tamise ; et les rives de ce fleuve magnifique, qui fait de Londres la reine des cités, sont les témoins constans de ses aventures. *Japhet* cherche son père sur la terre ferme ; la seule mer qu'il rencontre dans ses courses vagabondes est l'étroit canal qui sépare l'Irlande de l'Angleterre.

Les romans du capitaine Marryat affectent constamment la forme des mémoires. C'est toujours le principal personnage qui, rendu à la vie



tranquille après une jeunesse agitée, reporte ses regards en arrière et raconte avec complaisance les longues épreuves qu'il a dû subir. Ainsi Jacob Fidèle nous apprend comment, fils du pauvre patron d'une barque sur la Tamise, orphelin dès son bas âge, il est arrivé après bien des fortunes diverses à épouser la fille de son protecteur et à se reposer dans les loisirs d'une médiocrité dorée. Pierre Simple nous fait le touchant récit de ses rudes travaux comme *midshipman* d'abord, puis comme lieutenant à bord d'une frégate anglaise, des dangers de sa captivité en France et de son évasion, des persécutions auxquelles il est en butte de la part de son oncle, et des singuliers hasards qui lui assurent l'héritage de la pairie de son grand-père, le vieux lord Privilège. Enfin Japhet nous conduit à travers toutes ses infortunes, depuis sa sortie de l'hôpital des enfans-trouvés jusqu'au jour où il trouve son père dans la personne du général de Benyon, et avec lui l'espérance certaine d'une succession immense. Cette forme a sans doute d'incontestables avantages pour un roman qui est destiné à paraître dans une revue à des intervalles périodiques. Le lecteur n'a point à débrouiller les fils d'une intrigue qui lui échapperaient sans cesse entre deux livraisons. C'est le héros lui-même qui le mène, pour ainsi dire, par la main, qui applanit pour lui toutes les difficultés, qui abaisse devant lui tous les obstacles. La tâche de l'auteur en devient plus facile ; mais il faut reconnaître qu'en même temps il est plus exposé à commettre des fautes que le capitaine Marryat n'a pas su toujours éviter.

Jacob Fidèle, Pierre Simple et Japhet ont à peu près la même physionomie ; surtout ils ont le même langage. Ni la naissance, ni l'éducation n'ont apporté de différences essentielles dans leurs pensées et leurs sentimens. Le personnage change ; mais l'auteur reste toujours, et c'est trop souvent lui qu'on aperçoit. Racontant toujours à la première personne, il oublie facilement qu'il ne doit pas parler en son nom ; quelquefois il vient se placer tout à fait devant son héros ; alors il lui échappe de fâcheux contresens. Jacob Fidèle raconte sur un ton de légèreté fort inconvenante la mort de sa mère, mort horrible produite par la combustion spontanée ; et dans une autre circonstance il aime mieux s'exposer aux soupçons injustes de son ami que de révéler le pénible secret de cette mort misérable. Dans le récit, c'est le capitaine Marryat qui s'adresse au lecteur ; c'est Jacob Fidèle qui se tait devant son ami.

Je sais que cette faute est très commune dans les écrivains de nos jours, et qu'en général nos romanciers et nos poètes ne se soucient pas de perdre un trait brillant ou une réflexion piquante, uniquement pour rester fidèles à la vérité dans les caractères des personnages qu'ils ont créés. C'est précisément pour cela que je la signale dans le capitaine Marryat. Je voudrais qu'on se persuadât bien que l'esprit ne rachète pas les erreurs du goût. Rien ne choque plus que la substitution de l'auteur au personnage parce que rien n'est plus faux. Le capitaine Marryat est d'autant plus inexcusable que dans ces occasions là son esprit même le sert mal et que ses saillies sont assez souvent de mauvais aloi.

La nature, telle qu'il l'a observée et qu'il la peint, est presque toujours vulgaire ; mais aussi elle est vraie dans sa vulgarité. Ses personnages ne sont que des hommes et jamais des dieux ou des monstres. Ils appartiennent tous à la vie réelle, positive, à la vie que nous font les besoins, les intérêts et les passions ; ils se meuvent dans un monde que l'imagination de l'auteur n'a point rêvé, mais qu'il a vu et étudié, que nous pouvons voir et étudier comme lui. Leurs vertus et leurs vices sont de la terre où nous vivons ; le lecteur ne se sent point humilié par leurs perfections, ni épouvanté par leurs crimes ; au contraire, c'est avec une vive sympathie qu'il rit de leurs joies et souffre de leurs douleurs. Le capitaine Marryat sait avec un art infini nous intéresser à la bonne et à

la mauvaise fortune de ses héros. C'est par là surtout qu'il s'est assuré un rang honorable parmi les romanciers de notre époque.

Sa fable est conçue avec beaucoup de simplicité ; les incidens en sont naturels et leur variété annonce chez l'auteur une grande richesse d'imagination ; tout se lie et s'enchaîne sans confusion et sans efforts ; la gaîté y est franche et la douleur émeut sans irriter les nerfs et sans soulever le cœur. Le capitaine Marryat a une verve d'enjouement qui s'allie merveilleusement à une exquise sensibilité. Quelques scènes de *Japhet* rappellent à certains égards les bonnes scènes de *Gil-Blas* ; et rien n'est plus naïf, plus touchant et plus vrai que la peinture des angoisses du jeune Tom, condamné à mort dans *Jacob Fidèle*.

Le capitaine Marryat est un narrateur spirituel, plein de chaleur et d'entraînement. Ses descriptions rapides et pourtant complètes, ne laissent rien à désirer, j'allais dire aux yeux, tant elles présentent clairement les objets à la pensée. Il ne fait point étalage de la science maritime qu'il acquise dans son service vraiment actif, à bord des vaisseaux de Sa Majesté Britannique, et il use fort sobrement des termes du métier : ses personnages ne jurent par aucun des agrès, ni par aucune des pièces d'un navire. C'est une réserve de bon goût qui sera d'autant mieux sentie en France que nos romanciers maritimes ne nous y ont point accoutumés.

Personne sans doute ne s'étonnera de me voir faire au capitaine Marryat un mérite du respect qu'il montre partout pour la religion et pour la morale. On a voulu, depuis quelques années, nous faire applaudir tant de fanfarons de vices et de crimes ! nous avons eu à déplorer la publicité donnée à tant de monstrueuses compositions où l'opprobre et l'infamie se parent effrontément des couleurs de l'honneur et de la vertu ! Dans les romans du capitaine Marryat il n'est point jeté d'audacieuses provocations aux mauvaises passions de l'homme ; la parole de Dieu n'est point insultée, ni les règles éternelles de la morale et de la justice sacrifiées aux inspirations de l'ambition, de l'envie ou de la cupidité. C'est au contraire par une exacte probité, par l'accomplissement entier de leurs devoirs que ses personnages prospèrent, par une humble soumission aux conseils de la Providence, qu'ils sont heureux. *Japhet* commence par se montrer peu scrupuleux sur les moyens de pénétrer dans le monde où il croit trouver son père. Mais ce n'est qu'après, qu'il est rentré dans le sentier de l'honneur que la fortune vient, pour ainsi parler, le prendre par la main et le conduire au but de ses longues et pénibles recherches. Si *Jacob Fidèle* s'élève au-delà de ses plus ambitieuses espérances, c'est qu'il n'a pas cessé un instant d'être honnête homme.

On sera peut-être curieux de savoir auquel des trois partis qui divisent la Grande-Bretagne, s'est donné le capitaine Marryat. Je répondrai que je n'ai point rencontré la solution de cette question dans ses romans. J'affirmerais bien qu'il n'est point radical, puisque dans *Japhet* il présente le vol comme une conséquence logique du radicalisme. Mais est-il whig ou tory ? Je ne sais. Il y a dans *Pierre Simple* une sanglante mais très injuste satire contre le droit d'aînesse, cette pierre angulaire de la constitution anglaise. Or cela n'est ni tory ni whig. Le capitaine Marryat suppose que lord Privilège n'a d'affection que pour celui de ses enfans qui doit hériter de sa pairie et qu'il ne daigne pas même s'inquiéter de l'existence des autres. Ce n'est pas là ce qu'en Angleterre on reproche aux chefs des familles aristocratiques. On les accuse au contraire de ne maintenir les sinécures et les abus que dans l'intérêt de leurs cadets. Et il faut convenir que cette accusation se comprend beaucoup mieux que la fiction du capitaine Marryat. Je n'ai pas l'intention de discuter ici le bien ou le mal fondé des données premières de *Pierre Simple*. Il me suffit d'avoir fait connaître la cause de mes doutes sur l'opinion politique de l'auteur. Qu'on se rassure d'ailleurs : le capitaine Marryat n'a pas fait de ses romans une œuvre de propagande ; il a laissé ce ridicule à nos écrivains.

On peut appliquer aux trois romans du capitaine Marryat dont la traduction a paru jusqu'à ce jour, les jugemens généraux que j'ai portés sur le talent de cet écrivain. Tous trois ont reçu l'empreinte des mêmes qualités et des mêmes défauts. Cependant il me semble qu'il y a quelques raisons de préférer *Jacob Fidèle* aux deux autres. *Japhet* et *Pierre Simple* sont moins originaux ; les caractères en sont moins heureusement conçus ; il en est qui ne sont tracés ni avec assez de netteté ni avec assez d'énergie. A mon avis, l'auteur aurait dû mettre plus en relief, dans *Japhet*, la fraîche et gracieuse physionomie de la petite Fleta, de cette intéressante jeune fille que Japhet arrache à une troupe de bohémiens et qui disparaît ensuite de la scène avec aussi peu de raison qu'elle y était entrée. J'en dirai autant de Céleste O'Brien dans *Pierre Simple*. Est-ce qu'il n'était pas possible de faire ressortir avec plus de vigueur le caractère de celle qui devait être la femme de l'héritier de lord Privilège ? Le capitaine Marryat ose à peine ébaucher ses figures de femmes. Il en est une pourtant qu'il paraît avoir traitée avec amour ; c'est dans *Jacob Fidèle*, la coquette Marie, pour qui le jeune Tom s'expose deux fois à une mort infame, à la mort des déserteurs et des lâches. Cette figure là est vraie, vraie jusque dans ses nuances les plus délicates. Aussi on aime Marie avec tous ses caprices ; on l'aime dans sa joie et dans ses larmes ; on l'aime même dans ses infidélités. Le caractère du jeune Tom est d'une franchise et d'une vérité parfaites. Quelle tête légère ! mais en même temps quel excellent cœur ! et dans ce cœur que de dévouement et d'amour ! que de fermeté tout ensemble et de tendresse dans ses adieux à Marie, à cette heure où il n'attend plus que l'ordre de quitter sa prison pour mourir ! Le vieux Tom, la vieille Brigitte, et le capitaine Turnbull sont d'excellens portraits dont il n'est pas rare de rencontrer les originaux. Et le *Domine* ! ce brave et digne maître d'école dont l'âme est si honnête, qui montre tant de constance dans son affection pour Jacob Fidèle, chez qui tout est bon, l'esprit et le cœur, mais dont la tête est si bien remplie de grec, de latin et de mathématiques, qu'il y reste à peine un peu de bon sens et de raison. Le pauvre homme, malgré ses soixante-dix ans, devient amoureux de Marie, de cette folle enfant qui joue avec l'amour, jusqu'à ce que l'amour mène Tom à la mort. Le capitaine Marryat n'a rien écrit de plus naturel et de plus vrai que les pages où le *Domine* déclare sa passion à la coquette, et où, humilié d'abord par une réponse railleuse, il se relève bientôt à ses propres yeux aux yeux de Marie à force de calme, de douceur et de dignité. La figure du *Domine* est délicieuse d'un bout à l'autre, soit que son expression habituelle, toujours comique, quelquefois grotesque, excite le fou rire, soit qu'elle inspire une vive sympathie pour les sentimens qui viennent la rendre un moment plus grave et plus solennelle.

Malgré la préférence que j'accorde à *Jacob Fidèle*, je n'en ai pas moins de plaisir à reconnaître le mérite réel de *Pierre Simple* et de *Japhet*. J'aurais aussi beaucoup d'excellentes parties à signaler dans ces deux romans ; mais l'espace me manque ; et je me borne à dire que je persiste dans tous mes jugemens.

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*Picciola. From the French. 2 Vols.*

*Picciola* is a little work of which much praise had already reached us from the continent. A French novel, remarkable for its moral purity, may be accounted a literary phenomenon ; and as such, "*Picciola*" has been selected for public honours by the French Academy. Even the honours of the French Academy, however, are not so hard to win as the genuine favour of the English public ; and this further triumph we predict for "*Picciola*." It belongs to a class for which we have no parallel. Our works of imagination are limited just now to the species of light



writing which is monstrous heavy reading—three volume novels of the most matter-of-fact description.

"Picciola," on the contrary, is a flight of fancy—not of a disordered fancy, but of the healthy imagination of a man of genius. We have been taught in the physical sciences, by Watt, the stupendous force that even vapour may be made to assume; we are instructed by Saintine that imagination may be endowed with powers of argument equal to those of reason. The plan of his work is strikingly original and the execution pleasing. There is something almost ludicrous in the tenderness he continues to excite for his singular heroine. We tremble for her and rejoice with her, as with a creature of flesh and blood. To say more would be to mar the curiosity of the reader, whose indulgence we are strongly inclined to bespeak in favour of "Picciola."

*History of the West Indies.* By R. MONTGOMERY MARTIN, F.G.S.

This is a valuable addition to our works of information. The first volume comprises accurate and well arranged descriptions of Jamaica, Honduras, Trinidad, the Bahamahs, and the Virgin Islands. The second, British Guiana, Barbadoes, St. Vincent's, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, and the other small islands. Mr. Martin, in his manner of treating his subjects, is perspicuous, and his style is lucid and flowing. To the faithfulness of much of what he has written we can bear witness, as we have ourselves visited most of these islands. With his remarks upon slavery we do not agree; nor can we, though we ardently desire it, participate in his hopes. At present, we know that the whole negro population is in a state of disorganisation, and now they have the power to reorganise their own state of society, let us ask common sense and experience in what manner they will do it.

*The Married Unmarried.* By the Author of "Almack's Revisited," "The Belgic Revolution," &c. &c. 3 vols.

We request the attention of our friends and readers to what we conceive it to be our duty to say on this excellent and spirited production. It is a most invidious act to say that the novel of one author is better than that of another, for writings that have different ends in view, or employ dissimilar means to work out those ends, are not comparable. Thus, we may fairly compare the works of Sir Walter Scott the one with another; but there is no common ground on which a critic can stand and compare the fictions of that master-mind with those of Mr. E. Lytton Bulwer. We may as well endeavour to establish the superiority between three quarters of an hour and three quarters of a yard in space. The writings of both the above-mentioned gentlemen are admirable, are excellent. This sort of excellence, peculiar to itself, we claim for the novel "The Married Unmarried." It is not so romantic as the creations of Sir Walter Scott, nor so poetical as those of Mr. Bulwer, but it has qualities, individualities, and beauties, that cannot be found in either of them. These volumes will be found to give an accurate representation of English life, embracing all ranks and possessing a vast variety of genuine English personification. The tale is one of the romance of truth—nature is never outraged in the plot—there are no surprises—event begets events, in the natural order of human life; yet, is the whole the antipodes of commonplace, and deeply interesting. The story opens with an animated description of the abode, family, and occupations of that hardy and truly English character, an open-sea pilot. All this is not only painted to the life, but

we think never so well painted before. The destruction of this humble hero and of his gallant sons, in a successful attempt to release the crew of an Indiaman from the horrors of shipwreck, is a scene of thrilling excitement. Though this is not a naval novel, a more faithful and a more nautical description no naval novel has given. The hero of the tale has been entrusted mysteriously to the keeping of this honest seaman. His widow, a selfish person, having lost all clue to the secret, and despairing of making any money by the deserted lad, sends him to the workhouse. Wherever the author got his materials, we know not—it would hardly be fair to surmise; but nothing can be at once more harmonious and more accurate than his picture of the various light and shades, we had almost said, but lights there are none, of workhouse inmates under the old system. From this den of profligacy the hero, Peregrine Penguin, is rescued by the kindness of a neighbouring attorney, who advertises his destitute situation, and receives anonymous instructions to forward the youth to a distant boarding-school. This part of the story will be read with intense interest. The poor lad is expelled from this place under a false charge of theft, or rather, he makes his escape from his pedagogue in order to avoid a committal to the county jail. Then commence his wildest adventures. Peregrine was born musical, and is a fiddler almost by intuition, and thus we must not be surprised at his various droll *scrapes*. We are not told exactly how many strings he has to his bow, but all his scrapes finish to his advantage. His vagabond life terminates in his becoming a confidential clerk to a Smyrna merchant, a character rich in English humour; and here he becomes a youth of two loves, one of them, of course, is the only daughter and heiress of the common councilman; the other the only daughter of a Tory earl; and strange as this may seem when thus abruptly told, both of these incidents are perfectly natural. We are not going to destroy the reader's interest by displaying too much of the story; but prefer to give a quotation, from which the author's powers of delineation of character may be fairly inferred.

"At length we came to the door of Martin's chamber. My limbs began to tremble with mingled dread and suspense. The principal object of my curiosity was about to be satisfied. In a few moments more, I should know whether my long-cherished presentiments were well-founded—I should know whether this man was the detested usher—the wanton persecutor of my youth, the murderer, seducer, and betrayer of others. The ponderous bolts were now drawn back; the massive key revolved, the door was pushed open, and the inmate, starting from the pallet on which he was reclining, sat up, and proved to me that I had not been mistaken. It was Nibshort, the blood-stained usher; more hideous, more ghastly than when I had last seen him, triumphing in the full stretch of malice. Though prepared for my visit, he seemed for a moment to quail before me—a convulsive shudder overspread his features;—but it was more the expression of blasted pride, than that of shame or repentance.

"The attorney was about to speak, when Martin, suddenly recovering his self-possession, interrupted him, saying, 'You may spare yourself the trouble of an introduction—Mr. Penguin and I are old acquaintances.'

"'And a d——d hard fellow to deal with: he has done us, by God,' retorted Slipknot.

"'We have foiled ourselves,' replied the prisoner. 'But more of that presently; Mr. Penguin and I have an account to balance. Before I expect justice—justice!' repeated he, sternly but significantly—'from others, I must accord it to him. Young man, I injured you some years past in a manner that demands public reparation. I shall not disclose my motives, nor are they of any importance now. They are connected with the history of my life—not with yours. That history may appear when I am gone. But, although I may be a murderer, a forger, and guilty of a thousand villanies, and although I can neither recal the dead, nor efface the traces of my hand or crimes—'

"'For God's sake, my good friend,' said Slipknot, pointing to the door which

stood ajar, 'the turnkeys and doctor will hear you—you'll floor our alibi if you plead guilty.'

" 'Be it so, rejoined Nibshort; 'but that shall not prevent my performing one good act, before I wind up my accounts in this world.'

" 'He's turned methodist!' ejaculated the attorney, aside.

" 'Penguin,' continued Martin, stretching forth his left hand, 'you may take this; it is not blood-stained. Penguin, I ask your forgiveness'—and here, methought, I saw a tear moisten his eyelid, and his lip quiver—'Penguin, I grossly calumniated you—it was I that placed the marked money in your desk—you are innocent as a lamb. Here,' said he, taking pen and paper, and writing rapidly, 'here is a declaration to that effect, which shall be attested by a more creditable witness than my good friend there.'

" 'Thank you, Mr. Martin,' replied the other; 'this is all one gets from you cracksmen for risking one's life and character.'

" 'Character!' exclaimed Martin, with a sneer; 'if ever man deserved hanging more than I, it is you, and all those who are like you.'

" He then placed the written paper in my hand. O selfish weakness of our nature! at that moment I felt my horror of the man diminish. Murderer, outcast, villain as he was, and said he was, I forgave him—my heart seemed bursting with conflicting emotions. I even pitied him, and if I could have opened the prison doors and have set him free, I would have done so. I shall be condemned for this morbid sensibility. No matter: I am here to avow, not to conceal my sentiments. After a moment's pause, I pressed his hand; it was cool, steady, and less agitated than mine.

" 'I forgive you, Mr. Martin,' said I, 'willingly forgive you, and regret——'

" 'Spare your regrets,' replied he, 'I am not worthy of them. But your forgiveness and my confession are a great relief, for it was a dirty act, and has cost me more compunction than if I had stabbed you. I can look the scaffold boldly in the face. *Malè vivet quisquis nesciet benè mori.*'

" 'Not a bit of it,' exclaimed Slipknot; 'we've got the alibi, if you will but hold your d——d canting patter.'

" 'You're a fool as well as a knave,' rejoined Martin, looking at him with ineffable contempt: 'murder, forgery, and other crimes, will inevitably be proved against me. My accomplices were arrested yesterday, and have turned king's evidence. I shall plead 'not guilty;' not in hopes of saving my life, but, because I do not choose to resign it without an effort; besides, I intend to let the world know of what stuff I am made. I will conquer their admiration, though I cannot obtain their pity.'

" 'Mad as a March hare,' ejaculated Slipknot, in an under tone; then he added, aloud; 'as you plead 'not guilty,' you'll want the alibi and my assistance.'

" 'Neither,' rejoined Martin. 'I have injured that gentleman sufficiently. I will not urge him to perjure himself, nor will I trouble you. His reputation would be ruined by the one, and my character suffer by the other.'

" 'Thank you, my good friend,' replied the attorney; 'this comes of helping such dare-devils as you are. I shall go over, and see whether Bill and Ned will turn up their noses.'

" 'You may go where you please, sir,' retorted the other, 'and the sooner the better.'

" Slipknot took the hint, and departed. When he was gone, Martin resumed the thread of his discourse, saying, 'Yes, Mr. Penguin, I shall die without fear or remorse.'

" 'Without remorse!' said I: 'surely that is impossible.'

" 'It is true, though,' answered he. 'When I abandoned myself to crime, I knew that I placed myself in flagrant hostility to human and divine laws. A race then commenced between me and justice. I knew the penalty of violating the social compact. I also knew that I must then sign a bond with the scaffold, as others are said to have done with the devil. I resolved to embrace all the consequences of my pact, and, in truth, I would sooner die suddenly by the rope than by lingering illness. I am not one of those common minds that measure things by the yard, and think nothing good that is not durable. I take the ball at the bound. The most exquisite enjoyments are the most ephemeral. It's the study of all great minds to condense much in a small space. The influence of conscience and the execution of crime are incompatibilities: when I broke with society, and steeled my nerves to the latter, I



utterly stifled the former, or I could not have commenced. I have committed more than one murder—you may well start—yes, and I did so premeditatedly, in every instance, save that of the bar-maid. That was the mere instinct of self-preservation. But, although I have felt neither remorse nor compunction for these desperate crimes, I cannot support the idea of having been guilty of a mean and dirty act, such as drove you from Thistle-house.

“ ‘What strange contradiction!’ replied I. ‘Ah, sir! it is unfortunate for me, that this consideration did not deter you at the moment.’

“ ‘True; but I had an object then in view; you, I thought, might be the means of frustrating it, and so I resolved to remove you. Strange as it may appear, that act has cost me more regret than any other crime. I am no petty malefactor, no vile calumniator. If ever I betrayed another, it was to prevent his betraying me. Between me and the noble freebooters of old, who robbed, murdered and tortured by wholesale, there is only the difference of power and issue. What they did through the agency of others, and with a conviction of impunity, I have done boldly, with my own hand, and with foreknowledge of the risk and responsibility. I anticipated hatred, loathing, curses. I expect neither pity nor sympathy; but I will not merit contempt.’ ”

We trust that we have said enough to excite a general curiosity to know more of these volumes. A better novel of its class, we can safely affirm, has never appeared in print.

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*The Christian Correspondent; Letters, private and confidential, by Eminent Persons of both Sexes, exemplifying the Fruits of Holy Living, and the Blessedness of Holy Dying. With a Preliminary Essay, by JAMES MONTGOMERY, Esq. 2 vols.*

We think the publishing of these letters a most happy idea. The advice, the convictions, and the consolations, that they carry to the erring, the doubting, or the suffering Christian, are various and invaluable. They possess one great advantage over every other species of composition—the reader sees that the writer is in *earnest*. The names that have been laid under contribution to complete these two delightful volumes, are those that have been renowned for piety and learning, many of them having become English classics. The preliminary essay that introduces this correspondence to the reader, should be read diligently, as it contains many valuable truths, narrated in forcible and elegant language. We may look upon this work at random, and quote the first letter that meets the eye, when all are so good and so instructive. We will give our readers the following, as it affords ample occasion for reflection.

“ DR. DONNE, shortly before his death, to a FRIEND.

“ Sept. 7.

“ I have often suspected myself to be overtaken with an *over-earnest desire* of the next life; and, though I know it is not merely a weariness of this, (because I had the same desire when I went with the tide, and enjoyed fairer hopes than I now do;) yet I doubt worldly troubles have increased it. It is now spring, and all the pleasures of it displease me: every other tree blossoms, and I wither; I grow older, and not better; my strength diminisheth, and my load grows heavier; and yet I would fain be or do something; but that I cannot tell what, is no wonder in this time of my sadness; for to choose is to do; but to be no part of any body, is as to be nothing; and so I am, and shall so judge myself, unless I could be so incorporated into a part of the world, as by business to contribute some sustentation to the whole. This I made account; I began early, (when I understood the study of our laws;) but was diverted by leaving that, and embracing the worst voluptuousness—an *hydroptic*, immoderate desire of human learning and languages; beautiful

ornaments indeed to men of great fortunes, but mine was grown so low as to need an occupation; which I thought I entered well into, when I subjected myself to such a service as I thought might exercise my poor abilities: and there I stumbled, and fell too; and now I am become so little, or such a nothing, that I am not a subject good enough for one of my own letters.—Sir, I fear my present discontent does not proceed from a good root, that I am so well content to be nothing—that is, dead. But, sir, though my fortune hath made me such, as that I am rather a sickness or disease of the world, than any part of it, and therefore neither love it, nor life; yet I would gladly live to become some such thing as you should not repent loving me. Sir, your own soul cannot be more zealous for your good, than I am; and God, who loves that zeal in me, will not suffer you to doubt it. You would pity me now, if you saw me write; for my pain hath drawn my head so much awry, and holds it so, that my eye cannot follow my pen. I therefore receive you into my prayers with my own weary soul, and commend myself to yours. I doubt not but next week will bring you good news, for I have either mending or dying on my side; but, if I do continue longer thus, I shall have comfort in this, that my blessed Saviour, in exercising his justice, upon my two worldly parts, *my fortune and my body*, reserves all his mercy for that which most needs it, *my soul!* which is, I doubt, too like a porter, that is very often near the gate, and yet goes not out. Sir, I profess to you truly, that my loathness to give over writing now seems to myself a sign that I shall write no more.

“Your poor friend, and God’s poor patient,  
“JOHN DONNE.”

An attentive perusal of these volumes will convince the most christian of us, that we have yet much to learn, and still more to reform; and that there are very few of us who can safely say, we equal the writers of this correspondence, men who were dissatisfied with themselves, and who had an opinion so humble of their own merits. This is indeed a work, not of instruction only, but of solemn admonition.

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*Manchester; its Political, Social, and Commercial History, Ancient and Modern.* By JAMES WHEELER.

In naming this production a history, the author has evinced more pretension than accuracy: it is a statistical account of this great commercial and manufacturing town, interspersed with historical sketches, antiquities, and personal anecdotes; and of the last, some are minute even to frivolity, and can be of no possible interest to the general reader. But still this volume is a valuable one, and had we means of ascertaining the fact, we doubt not but that we should find it highly popular in Manchester.

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*The Family History of England.* By the Rev. GEORGE R. GLEIG, M.A.

We have received and read the first part of this work, and find that eighteen parts will complete this undertaking. We will give in his own words the author’s intention in thus giving a new history to the public. He says that it is “designed to occupy, in the literature of this country, a space, which has, perhaps, too long been left vacant.” There is no deficiency of elaborate histories of England, or of abridgments, well adapted to the use of schools, and readers of tender years. But no work, I believe, has been yet published, for those who are too far advanced in life to be satisfied with a mere school-book, and yet have not the leisure for the studying the more voluminous writers. In fact, Mr. Gleig intends an ample

abridgment. He has begun his task well. The woodcuts illustrative of the costumes, &c. &c., of the ancient Britons, greatly enhance the value of the work. The plate of the supposed state of Stonehenge, in the time of the Druids, is highly curious. We think that this publication will prove a desideratum.

*The Naval History of Great Britain, a new and improved Edition, brought down to the present time.* By EDWARD PELHAM BRENTON, Captain, R. N. Dedicated, by permission, to His Majesty.

We have spoken most favourably before of this work, which has now reached its eighth part, and as the next month will terminate the series, we shall reserve our more extended remarks until it appears. We must not, however, deny ourselves the pleasure of saying that the naval history of the second American war detailed in this number, is not only patriotically but impartially written. Ages of glory are insufficient to enable the boldest hearts to overcome physical impossibilities, and no axiom can be more indisputable than that of two forces placed in opposition, the greater will overcome the less. Moral superiority is, in naval combats, much, but not everything. The most chivalrous courage and the nicest tactics, if not backed by a sufficiency of brute force, will be unequal to victory. In this lies the secret of the naval advantages gained by the Americans over us at the commencement of this second unnatural war.

*Tales in Prose.* By MARY HOWITT.

This is a handsome little volume, containing a few tales beautiful in their simplicity and rich in their morality. We hold Mary Howitt to be the best relater of a quiet little story, that steals upon the heart and wins it, now living. It is almost a duty to put her writings into the hands of the young. A pleasure we are sure it is, and one which few would refuse themselves, when the fitting opportunity may offer.

*Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club; containing a Faithful Record of the Perambulations, Perils, Travels, Adventures, and Sporting Transactions of the Corresponding Members.* Edited by Boz. With Illustrations.

We perceive, as yet, no lack of vigour or of originality in these truly amusing papers. The eleventh as much rewards the reader for its perusal as the first. The service of the notice of action on the renowned patriarch of the club, and the subpœnas on his satellites, is admirably told. We are glad that Boz is getting among the lawyers. They want somebody among them more impartial than their patron saint, whom to name, causeth an imaginable odour of sulphur. Boz will be the first person, not a lawyer, who ever made anything by meddling with the law. The plates do not, or rather one of them does not, correspond with the letter-press, a defect hardly pardonable in so short a publication.



*Summary of Works that we have received, of which we have no space to make a lengthened notice.*

*Results of the Parliamentary Inquiry relative to Arts and Manufactures, New Schools of Design, the Royal Academy, &c., &c., explained.* By GEO. TEGGE, Historical Painter.—Very necessary to be read by all artists.

*A View of the Law of Scotland on Intestate Succession, as compared with that of England, and with Suggestions for its Amendment.* By JOHN TAYLOR, A.M.—The subject well considered and a good remedy propounded.

*Coghlan's German, French, and English Conversations.*—A very useful travelling companion.

*A Voice from Ireland upon Matters of present Concern, addressed to Legislators and Ministers of State.* By DANIEL O'ROURKE, Esq.—A voice that it would be for the happiness of thousands if it were heard and attended to.

*The Lady's Cabinet Lawyer ; being a familiar Summary of the exclusive and peculiar Rights and Liabilities, Legal and Equitable, of Women or Infants, as Wives and as Widows.* By a Barrister of the Middle Temple.—The title bespeaks the work, (not always the case,) and the work approves the title. It is short and to the purpose.

*Letter to the President of the Royal Geographical Society of London, on Atlantic Discovery.*—A letter worthy of attention.

*The Poetical Works of Richard Hat, dedicated by permission to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.*—We shall defer our remarks until we see a second edition of these poems ; we cannot trust ourselves to speak of the first.

*Mosse's Parliamentary Guide for 1837.*—This is a valuable and accurate little work, corrected up to the 24th of January. Why does Mr. Mosse make that political which ought only to be general.

*The Principles of Physiology applied to the Preservation of Health, and to the Improvement of Physical and Mental Education.* By ANDREW COMBE, M.D., &c. &c.—This is a fifth edition—can we say anything more striking in its favour ?

*The Carthusian.* No. I.—This is the first of a series of some pretension, and of a good deal of merit—it is highly fallacious to predict from a first number.

*Two Months at Kilkee.* By MARY JOHN KNOTT.—As we do not like our criticism to extinguish our gallantry, we shall be silent respecting the merits of this work.

*The Use of Talents.* By MRS. CAMERON, Author of "The Fruits of Education," &c. &c. &c.—A very interesting tale, inculcating the best moral and religious sentiments.

*The Beauty of the Rhine. A Metrical Romance, in Four Cantos.* By CAPTAIN RICHARD HORT, 81st Regiment.—We have no objection to these four cantos, or forty more of them.

*The Outcast.*—So be it.

*The Lives and Exploits of Banditti and Robbers in all Parts of the World.* By C. MAC FARLANE, Esq.—We are glad to see this excellent work recognised as an English classic, by being placed among the productions of the "Family Library," forming the sixty-second number.

*The Cheltenham Annuaire, for the Year 1837 ; containing Original Essays, &c. &c. An Almanac for the Year, &c. ; and also a Directory and Guide.*—This is an excellent local affair, not useless in a more extended sphere.

*Supplementary Remarks on our Foreign Policy*—This pamphlet is by the same author, that has already created so much sensation by his foregoing brochure on "Our Foreign Policy." It deserves attention.

## LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

- Cooke's History of Party. Vol. II. 8vo. 18s.  
 Abel Allnutt. By the Author of "Hajji Baba." 3 vols. post 8vo. 1l. 11s. 6d.  
 Ellis's Laws of Shipping. 12mo. 9s.  
 Boullaye Le Gauz's Tour in Ireland, in 1644, with Notes, &c. By T. C. Croker. Post 8vo. 5s.  
 Scripture Account of the Sabbath. By Archdeacon Stopford. 8vo. 7s.  
 Parochial Lectures on the Holy Catholic Church. By the Rev W. J. Irons. 8vo. 4s. 6d.  
 The Caraguin. By R. N. Dunbar. 12mo. 5s.  
 M'Culloch's Dictionary of Commerce. New Edition, corrected to December 1836. 8vo. 2l. 10s.  
 Scott's Harmony of Phrenology with Scripture. Second Edition. 6s. 6d.  
 Hunter's Works. Vol. I. By J. F. Palmer. 8vo. 17s. 6d.  
 Hunter's Surgical Works. Vol. I. By J. F. Palmer. 8vo. 7s. 6d.  
 Dibdin's New Spring Annual, 1836. 12mo. 1s.  
 Bloomfield's School Greek Testament, with English Notes. 12mo. 12s.  
 Brenton's Naval History. 2 vols. 8vo. 1l. 11s. 6d.  
 Burton's History of the Church. Second edit. fcap. 6s. 6d.  
 Boyle on the Law of Charities. 8vo. 24s.  
 Hawks of Hawk-Hollow. By Dr. Bird. 3 vols. post 8vo. 27s.  
 Morrison on Metallic Currency. 8vo. 3s. 6d.  
 Leland's Deistical Writers. New edit. 8vo. 12s.  
 Pierce's Growth in Grace. Third edit. 18mo. 3s.  
 Monk's Alcestis of Euripides. Fifth edit. 8vo. 6s.  
 Kenrick's Key to Greek Exercises. Part I. 12mo. 4s. 6d.  
 Graglia's Italian Dictionary. New edit. 6s.  
 Cutler on Dressing and Bandaging. Second edit. 6s. 6d.  
 Crombie's Etymology and Syntax of the English Language. Fourth edit. 8vo. 7s. 6d.  
 Muehlenfels' Manual of German Prose. fcap. 5s.  
 Muehlenfels' Manual of German Poetry. fcap. 5s.  
 Edgeworth's Harry and Lucy concluded. Third edit. 3 vols. fcap. 12mo. 12s.  
 Crossley's Flowers of Ebor. Post 8vo. 6s.  
 Henrietta Temple. Second edit. 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d.  
 Ferrall's Exposition of the Law of Parliament. 8vo. 12s.  
 Bateman's Magnacopia. Second edit. 18mo. 6s.  
 M'Lean's Comic Alphabet, No. II. 2s. 6d. pl.; 4s. col.  
 Foreign Tales. 18mo. 1s. 6d.  
 Medical Properties of the Bladud Spa-Water. By C. T. Edwards, 8vo. 3s.  
 Tithe Commutation Tables. By C. M. Willich, royal 8vo. 2s. 6d.  
 Taylor's Golden Grove, 18mo. new edition, 4s.  
 Family Poetry, chiefly devotional, 32mo. 3s.  
 Walker's Games and Sports, 12mo. roan, 9s.  
 A Practical Treatise on the Law of Charities. By W. R. A. Boyle, royal 8vo. 1l. 4s.  
 Rosamond Culbertson, with Introduction, by S. B. Smith, 12mo. 3s.  
 A Treatise on Painful and Nervous Diseases. By A. Turnbull, M.D. Third Edition. 6s.  
 Spiritual Crumbs. By Gerhard Terstigen, from the German, by S. Jackson, 12mo. 5s.  
 Quarle's Judgment and Mercy, 12mo. 2s.



## LITERARY NEWS.—WORKS IN PROGRESS.

Mr. Bulwer's "ATHENS," is not yet published, but is expected speedily.

Miss Boyle's new work, "THE STATE PRISONER," has, we understand, just appeared, though not in time for notice in our present Number. We cannot doubt its excellence from the high character given of it by Mr. James, the Author of "Richelieu," who says of it in his Dedication to his new work, "The Desultory Man," "I do not scruple to assert, that every one who can estimate genius, guided by high principles and the poetry of the heart, inspired by noble feelings and pure taste, will read that work with delight and approbation."

The Author of "MAKANNA" has just committed to the press a new work, entitled "THE PICAROON." The graphic power of this author will find an ample field in the subject of this production.

The Countess of Blessington's new work, "THE VICTIMS OF SOCIETY," is nearly ready for publication.

Mrs. Butler (late Miss Kemble) has in the press a new drama, entitled "THE STAR OF SEVILLE."

So great has been the demand for the new and improved edition of MR. LODGE'S PEERAGE, that a large impression has been nearly exhausted since its recent publication. Embellished as it now is by the Armorial Bearings incorporated with the Text, it may safely be pronounced the most beautiful and complete work of the kind that has ever appeared.

The author of "Almack's Revisited," has just ready his new work, entitled, "THE MARRIED UNMARRIED."

We are glad to find Miss Stickney engaged on a third volume of her inimitable Pictures of Private Life, and that she has chosen the fertile subject of "Pretension" for the exercise of her talented pen. If there be one prevailing annoyance greater than another, in every grade of society, it is that of Pretension, and we therefore anxiously hope that the present laudable endeavour of this popular writer to expose its folly, and check its many absurdities, will prove successful. The Work will be published in a few days.

A new issue of The Library of Romance is now preparing for publication, with splendid Illustrations, engraved on steel, by the most eminent Artists, after Drawings by the first masters of the day.

Piso and the Prefect; or, the Ancients off their Stilts.

The Progress of Creation considered with reference to the Present Condition of the Earth. By the Author of "Annals of my Village," &c.

A Dream of Life. By the Rev. W. G. Moore.

Doveton, or the Man of many Impulses, a Metaphysical Romance. By the Author of "Jerningham."

The Felony of New South Wales, a picture of the Romance of Life in Botany Bay, &c. By James Mudie, Esq.

First Impressions and Studies from Nature in Hindostan, embracing an Outline of the Voyage to Calcutta and Five Years' Residence in Bengal and the Doab, from 1831 to 1836. By Thomas Bacon, Lieutenant of the Bengal Horse Artillery.

## FINE ARTS.

*Mr. Burford's Panorama of Mont Blanc, now exhibiting in Leicester Square.*

This branch of the fine arts, the importance of which we think not to be duly appreciated, has been brought wonderfully near perfection by the skill and assiduity of Mr. Burford; a more striking instance of which need not be desired than this view of Mont Blanc and the adjacent scenery. We have no room for poetical expatiation



or raptures about cloud-capp'd mountains, but must strictly confine ourselves to a short critical notice of the view as a painting, as a mere transcript on the canvass of the real Mr. Burford saw. Those who have visited these regions will be at first struck by the extreme fidelity of the representation; they will find everywhere the sober tints that nature usually wears, as in this picture; the remote is the most imposing and principal feature; they will find it clothed with that vapour of indistinctness that forbids the introduction of glowing colours, and all the gaudy clap-traps of crimson and yellow ochre. The foreground is, however, distinctly and even vividly painted, yet in no manner overstepping the modesty of nature. With all our admiration of this splendid production, we cannot forbear noticing a defect, which lies not in the want of capacity of the artist, but in the room in which that capacity is displayed. The canvass is too large for the circular space in which it is placed to be viewed; the tops of the mountains are nearly invisible; and notwithstanding the utmost craning of the neck, the lower part of the picture wholly so. This, however, is but a minor blemish, and will not at all detract from the exquisite pleasure all persons will have in contemplating this wild, awful, and yet beautiful scene.

*Wanderings and Excursions in South Wales, including the Scenery on the River Wye.* By THOS. ROSCOE, Esq. Illustrated by fine Steel Engravings, by Mr. RADCLYFFE, from Drawings made expressly for this Work by Cox, Harding, Copley, Fielding, and other eminent Artists.

We have received the fourth and fifth numbers of this popular and improving work, and can fearlessly recommend them to the notice of all the lovers of art and of good writing. No. IV. contains views of Brecon Church, Pont y Prydd, and Caerphilly; all of them particularly fine engravings; and the letter-press that follows leaves us nothing to wish for, as far as satisfactory description and animated narrative are concerned. The fifth part is embellished by views of Goodrich Court, Pembroke Castle, and the watering-place of Aberystwith, with accompanying descriptions. Altogether we pronounce this to be a splendid as well as an economical production, and when completed will form a very beautiful volume.

*Mr. C. H. Adams's Annual Lecture on Astronomy, at the King's Theatre, Haymarket.*

We have often spoken in high terms of commendation of these beautiful and scientific lectures, so appropriate to the season of the year, and so conducive to the improvement of the young, that another repetition of our sentiments might almost seem superfluous. But still it is our duty to remind parents and guardians that an opportunity like that which Mr. Adams offers to them, in displaying before the juvenile mind the unfathomable wisdom and the inconceivable power of the Creator, by an accurate and philosophical insight into his stupendous works, ought to be seized with avidity, as it is certain it will be productive of the purest emotions of pleasure. All sensible people should reflect, that for a few, we are bound to say too few a number of nights, the temple usually dedicated to fashion, frivolity, and dissipation, will be the sanctuary of that science that is nearest to heaven, and must consequently induce in the mind reflections of piety.

## THE DRAMA.

COVENT GARDEN.—We submit to the attention of Mr. Hamblin, "tragedian!!!" who has been induced to favour his countrymen by appearing at this theatre, "on his return to this his native land," the following passage from a lecture by Coleridge on Hamlet. "Man is distinguished from the brute animals in proportion as thought prevails over sense: but in the healthy processes of the mind, a balance is constantly maintained between the impression from outward objects and the inward operations of the intellect; for if there be an overbalance in the contemplative faculty, man thereby becomes the creature of mere meditation, and loses his natural

March 1837.—VOL. XVIII.—NO. LXXI.

power of action. Now one of Shakspeare's modes of creating character is, to conceive any one intellectual or moral faculty in morbid excess, and then to place himself, Shakspeare, thus mutilated or diseased, under given circumstances. In Hamlet he seems to have wished to exemplify the moral necessity of a due balance between our attention to the objects of our senses, and our meditation on the workings of our minds,—an *equilibrium* between the real and the imaginary worlds. In Hamlet this balance is disturbed: his thoughts, and the images of his fancy, are far more vivid than his actual perceptions, and his perceptions instantly passing through the *medium* of his contemplations, acquire, as they pass, a form and colour not naturally their own. Hence, we see a great, an almost enormous intellectual activity, and a proportionate aversion to real action consequent upon it, with all its symptoms and accompanying qualities. This character Shakspeare places in circumstances, under which he is obliged to act upon the spur of the moment:—Hamlet is brave, and careless of death; but he vacillates from sensibility, and procrastinates from thought, and loses the power of action in the energy of resolve. Thus it is that this tragedy presents a direct contrast to that of Macbeth; the one proceeds with the utmost slowness, the other with a crowded and breathless rapidity.

"The effect of this overbalance of the imaginative power is beautifully illustrated in the everlasting broodings and superfluous activities of Hamlet's mind, which, unseated from its unhealthy relation, is constantly occupied with the world within, and abstracted from the world without,—giving substance to shadows, and throwing a mist over all common-place actualities. It is the nature of thought to be indefinite;—definiteness belongs to external imagery alone. Hence it is, that the sense of sublimity arises, not from the sight of an outward object, but from the beholder's reflection on it; not from the sensorious impression, but from the imaginative reflex. Few have ever seen a celebrated waterfall without feeling something akin to disappointment: it is only subsequently that the image comes back full into the mind, and brings with it a train of grand or beautiful associations. Hamlet felt this; his senses are in a state of trance, and he looks upon external things as hieroglyphics. His soliloquy—

'O! that this too solid flesh would melt,' &c.

springs from that craving after the indefinite—from that which is not—which most easily besets men of genius; and the self-delusion, common to this temper of mind, is finely exemplified in the character which Hamlet gives of himself:—

'It cannot be  
But I am pigeon-livered, and lack gall  
To make oppression bitter:'

He mistakes the seeing his chains for the breaking them, delays action till action is of no use, and dies the victim of mere circumstances and accident."

That Mr. Hamblin never read this wonderful passage, we are certain; because, had he done so, his own good sense would have restrained him from presenting a representation of Hamlet to his countrymen, even "on his return to this, his native land;"—that he has no idea, not even the most distant, of Shakspeare's Hamlet, it is only necessary to witness his performance of any one scene in the tragedy. In what estimation Mr. Hamblin may have been held, on the other side of the Atlantic, we know not; but if any audience in America could listen with feelings of admiration or excitement to his Hamlet, we should be glad to learn that this tragedy was struck out of the list of acting plays in that country, and the *Black Bandit of Bohemia*, or the *Sad Saracen of Seringapatam*, substituted for it.

It is by no means pleasant to speak harshly of the exertions of any actor, but when a performer attempts the highest effort of his art, which is the realisation of Hamlet, he must be prepared to hear truth; which, in this "tragedian's" case amounts to this, that his performance of Hamlet is most execrably bad, offensive from pretension, and unredeemed by one spark of true reverential Shakspearean feeling.

The amusements at this theatre, during the last month, have not been so generally attractive as they were during the early part of the season, owing, it is said, to the prevailing epidemic, which has rendered Mr. Macready unable to perform. We earnestly hope that the manager will not deprive the public of witnessing the now only "tragedian" of the British stage, the moment he is able to resume his professional duties. This is only due to the public, who have generously aided him, undeterred by malicious slanders and vulgar pride.



The nautical performances of Mr. T. P. Cooke are complete portraits of the lives and manners of sailors, and prove most attractive to those whom avocations and dispositions permit only to come at half-price.

DRURY LANE.—Mr. Edwin Forrest, by the means of reduced prices, is drawing audiences respectable in point of numbers to this house. If Mr. Forrest be, as his friends insist, a man of genius and a great actor, we are surprised that he does not confine his great powers to great plays. Surely both the tragedy of Brutus and that of Damon and Pythias, are beneath the dignity of genius; and yet, by general consent, it is said that Mr. Forrest has been most successful in these plays; and the reason is obvious—neither of them require any effort of the imaginative qualities; they are both

“Coldly correct and critically dull,”

and a less imaginative actor than Mr. Forrest we have seldom seen. In Shakspeare, he understands the broad outline of characters, but he perceives not the nice and subtle points which fill up and complete the picture. He appeals to the senses rather than the imagination; to the mere understanding, rather than the reason, as contemplating inward nature and the workings of the passions in their most retired recesses. Besides, in his appeals to the senses, Mr. Forrest is always aiming at something more than what is possible on the whole: he thinks too much of himself, his positions, his hits, his points, and too little of Shakspeare. What Coleridge remarks of Shakspearean criticism is equally true of Shakspearean acting: that assuredly that acting of Shakspeare will alone be genial which is reverential; and that the man who, without reverence—a proud and affectionate reverence—can utter the words of Shakspeare, stands disqualified for the office of actor, and will play at best but as a blind man; while the whole harmonious creation of light and shade, with all its subtle interchange of deepening and dissolving colours, rises in silence to the call of the actor, and is seen only by the audience through a dim and disagreeable mist. Now this want of proud and affectionate reverence is palpable throughout every performance of Shakspeare which Mr. Forrest has given. On leaving the theatre, after having seen Kean or seeing Macready, the mind was or is filled with rapture, admiration, and astonishment, at the genius of Shakspeare. After having witnessed Mr. Forrest's performance, we think of the actor, his few beauties, and his many blemishes, and feel more than ever the incapacity of art to realise genius. In Mrs. Butler's very clever Journal there is an example of this. Having seen Forrest in Brutus, this lady merely notes down in her diary, “What an enormous man he is!” Whether this be intended for sarcasm, or merely the natural expression of what was uppermost in her mind, is of no consequence; similar, we venture to predict, is the note of all who keep journals, after seeing Mr. Forrest.

The Operas of *Cinderella* and the *Mountain Sylph* have both been charmingly got up here, and have proved exceedingly attractive. Public curiosity has for some time been greatly excited by the announcement of Barnet's new opera, *Fair Rosamond*, which will in all probability have been brought out before this notice appears, and on the decoration, dresses, &c., the manager intends, it is reported, to be more than usually expensive and magnificent; although the public have no reason to complain in either respect.

MR. WARDE.—It is reported that this gentleman has become the proprietor of the Queen's Bazaar, in Oxford Street, and intends to turn it into a theatre. If this be the case, we sincerely wish complete success to one who is at once a man of considerable talents, a scholar, and a gentleman, and who, for some years past, has been too much neglected and passed over by the managers of the great houses. Those who have witnessed Mr. Warde's *Iago*, his *Joseph Surface*, and latterly, his *Black Ralph*, in Sheridan Knowles's last play, will readily admit that he is now one of the last of the sterling actors, who once adorned the stage, and delighted the public. We again reiterate our wish of success for him in this hazardous undertaking.

## THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS OF THE COUNTRY.

OUR imports (considering the time of year) have as yet, with one exception, been very great, and that exception is the Turkey trade—but large arrivals of opium, gall, and gum arabic, are expected during the ensuing



month (March.) East India and other sugars have had but few buyers. Cotton is steady. Dye woods have had a decline in prices—spices are dull. Our West India produce, viz. sugar, rum, and molasses, still hold their prices. There has been a rise in coffee from Jamaica and Berbice. Nothing has been doing in cocoa. The Cape trade is prosperous, its hides, skins, horns, wines, &c. having a ready market. Ivory is not now a good speculation. Raw silk fetches a high price. The Russia trade is dull. Tallow sells slowly, and at low prices; wool finds buyers. The exports are still on the increase, particularly of manufactured cotton. The increase of foreign vessels in the carrying trade is what we regret, but only what we expected. Our internal commerce has been brisk; great fluctuations in prices have taken place; they are now high. The rail-roads are proceeding with rapidity. The complete success of the Manchester line has raised the hopes of the holders of shares in other rail-roads, and unsold shares in most of these speculations are now scarce, and at a premium. All this is very well so far as it goes, but the accounts from those great sources to which we must look for the supply of our means of commerce, are by no means so satisfactory. The general trade of Birmingham is, we regret to learn, in a very depressed state, almost amounting to complete stagnation. The cause of this state of things has been as sudden as it is undefinable. An address to Lord Melbourne is now in course of signature, to which are attached the names of the high and low bailiffs, and the principal merchants and manufacturers of the town, soliciting the serious and immediate attention of Government to the subject. The memorial states that during the last two or three years the greatest prosperity prevailed; but within the last three months, that gratifying state of things has entirely disappeared, without any prospect of its being restored. Nor are the accounts from Liverpool more cheering, for we regret to say that it continues very indifferent, principally owing to the uncertainty and confusion in the Money Market, which compels all persons to limit their transactions within as narrow bounds as possible. The state of the American money market is also such as greatly to narrow the trade with that country, to the extreme inconvenience of the British manufacturer. A very severe failure in the sugar trade was announced on 'Change—the heaviest that has taken place in Liverpool for some years—and greatly added to the prevailing dulness of trade, although the loss will principally fall on very strong houses. In the metropolis great distrust exists among all classes connected with business. Times, we trust, though we cannot see any prospect of it, may speedily amend.

#### PRICES OF THE PUBLIC FUNDS,

On Thursday, 23rd of February.

##### ENGLISH STOCKS.

Bank Stock 207 one-half.—Three per Cent. Consols 91 one-eighth.—Three per Cent., Reduced 90 five-eighths.—Three and a Half per Cent., Reduced, 90 seven-eighths.—Exchequer Bills, 32 p.—India Bonds, 28s. p.

##### FOREIGN STOCKS.

Portuguese New, Five per Cent., 40 one-quarter.—Dutch, Two and a Half per Cent., 53 three-eighths.—Spanish Bonds, Active, 26 three-quarters.

**MONEY MARKET REPORT.**—On the close of January last the Money Market was in a feverish state, from an apprehension that the Bank was about to set about contracting its issues with more earnestness. In the absence of unwelcome news Consols for money, which had been sold at 89½, advanced above ½ per cent. In America it appears that the credit of mercantile classes was at such a wretchedly low ebb at the close of the year, that the banking-houses would not receive cheques drawn upon other banks, and therefore their customers could only draw cheques to the amount of the cash actually paid in. Such is the miserable

issue of free-banking. To stop the exportation of specie to America, it is clear that we should annihilate the power of the joint-bankers to issue paper; this would allow the price of cotton to fall to the level at which it was before that issue produced speculation, and a rise in the price—a depreciation of, perhaps, 2*d.* in the lb. Then having two millions sterling per annum, less to pay to America for the raw material, and the low price of our cotton goods increasing the demand from abroad, the exchanges, not only with the United States, but the Continent, would turn decidedly in favour of England, and our manufacturers would again become busy.

There was a slight revival of the dealing in shares of rail-roads and joint-stock banks, but not to a material extent. In the commercial world discredit, stagnation, and extreme pressure for money prevailed. A heavy failure was announced, and several small houses engaged in the silk trade have stopped.

About the middle of last month, (February.) The Money Market wore a firm appearance, although beyond the precincts of the Stock Exchange increased distress prevailed. Mercantile houses of the first rank found it impossible to get bills discounted on any terms: where attempts were made to sell goods by auction they were mostly withdrawn for want of bidders; the export trade continued to be miserably flat, while the importations were heavy; and the accounts from the manufacturing districts complained of excessive dulness, numerous failures, and general distrust. The state of the Exchange, in fact, was still such that capitalists preferred abstaining altogether from business to encountering the great risk which attends the employment of money in any manner. Though seven per cent. might have been readily obtained for the use of money, no man who held Three per Cent. Stock or Exchequer Bills, was tempted to sell his Public Securities, which yielded him not half that per centage. Stock was positively scarce, and the more pinching the want of money became, the firmer appeared the value of Stock. Consols seemed to be nailed, and could not be moved one per cent. up or down.

The premium on Exchequer Bills remained steady, no further sales being pressed by the Bank, which was understood to have resorted to re-discounting its commercial bills. This new drain of the capital usually employed in discounting, increased the difficulty of the merchants and bankers, who had hitherto been accommodated with the use of it. There was a slight revival of business in the Share Market, and some new speculations have been advertised in the course of the last fortnight. Several failures at Liverpool, and a heavy one in London, were the subjects of much discussion.

Another week of considerable anxiety passed without any calamity. The Bank has not had any adequate offer for its Government Annuity till the year 1867, or Dead Weight. It requires about 17*l.* 10*s.* for every 1*l.* annuity, which is at the rate of 9,150,450*l.*, for the whole, and this amount, with the sum of 7,614,620*l.*, which it has already received from the Government by annual payments since 1823, would give a total of 16,765,070*l.* for its bargain, which cost 13,089,419*l.* The highest offer is understood to have been made by the Equitable Insurance Office, being 17*l.* 5*s.* for 1*l.* annuity. Mr. Medley, the country banker at Aylesbury, who recently failed, has addressed a letter to his customers, in which he states, that, from the pressure of the times, out of 220,000*l.* of permanent lodgments in his hands, 200,000*l.* was drawn out in the last two months, and this trying demand he intimates has been pretty general among the country bankers. He describes those two months as "a crisis unexampled since the dreadful panic of 1825;" and he expresses his fear that his stoppage is "only the commencement of a catalogue of disastrous failures."

About the 17th, Consols advanced 1 per cent., owing, it should seem, partly to the non-interference of the Bank with the rate of discount, but chiefly to the continued scarcity of stock, which will perplex those who have large amounts to deliver on the settling day. The mercantile members of the community, who are affected by the pressure for money, are not generally holders of 3 per cents., and their distress, therefore, does not produce sales. The ruinous fluctuations and stagnation in the Market for Foreign Securities and Mining and Railway Shares, have diverted altogether the employment of a spare capital into the English Stock Market; and there is a constant demand, especially for 3½ per cents. and small Exchequer Bills. The Bank abstains from acting on the currency because the last advices from the United States have brought plenty of orders for English goods, and as American cotton has declined fifteen per cent. in the course of the last three weeks, and we shall have so much less to pay to America, the chance of a revival of the exportation of gold is considerably diminished. France has been supplying the continental



markets with indigo at 6 to 8 per cent. below the prices here; and if speculation and high prices are fostered in this country by suffering the Joint Stock Banks to create sham money without restraint, the French will no doubt undersell us as to other articles.

In the Foreign Stock Market Spanish Bonds have advanced from 25½ to 28, upon the presumption that the blow about to be struck by General Evans will bring the Carlist war to a rapid close.

## BANKRUPTS.

FROM JANUARY 24, 1837, TO FEBRUARY 17, 1837, INCLUSIVE.

*Jan. 24.*—J. Baker, Melbourne, Cambridge-shire, grocer.—C. Baker, Merton Mills, Wimbledon, Surrey, miller.—J. H. Farnier, Abchurch Lane, painter.—F. and R. Sparrow, Ludgate Hill, wine merchants.—T. Greenfield, Roebuck Tavern, Chiswick, victualler.—T. Tullock, Wimborne Minster, Dorsetshire, builder.—J. Clarkson, Nottingham, carrier.—T. Wheeler, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, grocer.—R. Cuming, Plymouth, Devonshire, ship owner.—W. Alston, Leicester, spinner.

*Jan. 27.*—W. Watling, Arabella Row, Pimlico, eating-house keeper.—J. Collins, South Row, New Road, Somers Town, dealer.—E. Joseph and E. Levi, Ratcliffe Highway, merchants.—D. Morgan, Hedge Row, Islington, butcher.—J. Hopton, E. W. Peniston, J. Peniston, and C. Rose, Leeds, dyers.—T. and N. Armstrong, Caldecoats, Cumberland, tanners.—J. H. Hetherington, Whitehaven, Cumberland, brewer.—S. and J. Reading, Birmingham, gilt toy makers.—T. Wootton, Bognor, Sussex, grocer.—J. Nield, Midge Hill, Saddleworth, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturer.—R. Wilson, Liverpool, tallow-chandler.—I. Johnson, Sheffield, hatter.—J. Jennings, Canterbury, hotel-keeper.—C. Jauncey, Sponend, Herefordshire, cattle dealer.—J. Armstrong, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, common brewer.—W. Roberts, Newport, Monmouthshire, shipwright.

*Jan. 31.*—T. Nottage, Green Dragon Yard, Worship Street, coach master.—H. Greenhill, Philpot Lane, tea-dealer.—J. Bates, Long Lane, Bermondsey, Surrey, furrier.—R. Johnstone, Chelmsford, Essex, woollen draper.—W. Geach, sen. and W. Geach, jun. Polruan, Cornwall, shipwrights.—J. Millington, Manchester, joiner.—A. Manson, Liverpool, merchant.—T. Cartwright, Manchester, toy merchant.—R. Powell, Bath, butcher.—E. Whele, Walsall, Staffordshire, grocer.—R. Crabtree and S. Holdsworth, Burnley, Lancashire, curriers.—E. Sheppard, sen. & E. Sheppard, jun., Uley, Gloucestershire, clothiers.—B. Boothby, sen. and B. Boothby, jun., Nottingham, iron founders.—D. Parry, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, victualler.—J. Duncan, Manchester, hosier.—J. H. Collens, Weston, Somersetshire, nurseryman.—J. Rogers, Martley, Worcester-shire, tanner.—J. Harland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, woodmonger.—S. Beeny, Birmingham, mercer.—W. Whittaker, Wakefield, maltster.

*Feb. 2.*—J. Burke, Golden Lane, St. Luke's, soap maker.—E. Burn, St. Helen's Place, merchant.—J. W. Spradbow, Newington, Kent, linen draper.—J. J. Cole, Anchor Brewery, Britton Street, Chelsea, ale brewer.—H. Pegg, Royal Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, hotel keeper.—W. and A. O. Medley, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, bankers.—C. Stoddart, Bank Chambers, Tokenhouse Yard, money scrivener.—W. De Burgh, Bishopsgate Street, Without, licensed victualler.—C. White, Willingale, Spain, Essex, goosefeeder.—J. Cram, Northfleet, Kent, coal merchant.—G. Moore and J.

Wholly, Basinghall Street, wholesale woollen drapers.—W. Iredale, Ranskill, Nottinghamshire, horse dealer.—H. Raines and J. Savage, Dukinfield, Cheshire, steam-boiler makers.—W. Splaine, Liverpool, coal merchant.—T. Pierpoint, Warrington, Lancashire, draper.—H. Holdsworth, Halifax, and A. Knight, London Wall, worsted spinners.—R. Wilson, Liverpool, tallow chandler.—J. Hartley, Stickney, Lincoln, victualler.—J. Wilmot, Lenton, Nottinghamshire, coach proprietor.—J. Harley, Colne, Lancashire, draper.—J. Stafford, Glossop, Derbyshire, victualler.—W. Boulter, Worcestershire, tobacconist.—A. Fletcher, Redbridge, Southampton, auctioneer.—T. Ladyman, Liverpool, ironmonger.—J. Butcher, Birmingham, chemist.

*Feb. 7.*—J. and J. Richards, Morris's Walk, Bridge Street, Southwark.—T. Dell, jun., Chingford Green, Essex, butcher.—S. M. Briggs, Barnet, Hertfordshire, plumber.—T. Kilvington, Brough, Westmoreland, innkeeper.—T. Beesly, Farringdon, Berkshire, grocer.—H. Swan, jun., Little Hampton, Sussex, grocer.—W. Barmby, Pudsey, Yorkshire, tallow chandler.—W. H. Everett, Manchester, commission agent.—J. Shilton, Walsall, Staffordshire, carpenter.—T. Wescott, Trews Weir Mills, Devonshire, paper maker.—T. C. Perritt, Kingston-upon-Hull, money scrivener.—J. and J. Crossley, Farnley Tyas, Yorkshire, cloth manufacturers.—G. Miller, Bath, victualler.—J. Seed, Catteral, Lancashire, spindle maker.

*Feb. 10.*—H. Woodthorp, Avely, Essex, grocer.—T. Chandler, Wood Street, Cheapside, warehouseman.—N. Bingham, Old Bond Street, surgeon.—J. West, High Street, Shoreditch, grocer.—J. Barnett, Stourport, Worcestershire, wharfinger.—J. B. Higgs, and T. G. Ransford, Manchester and London, hat manufacturers.—C. Radcliffe, Bury, Manchester, drysalter.—J. Lancashire, Wirksworth, Derbyshire, currier.—J. R. Greer, Bristol, provision merchant.—W. Bodmin, Bristol, tallow chandler.

*Feb. 14.*—J. Chisholm, Abchurch Yard, cupper.—W. and W. H. Longstaff, Bury Street, St. James's, tailors.—D. Deillier, Berners Street, Oxford Street, upholsterer.—J. Wiggins, High Holborn, woollen draper.—A. Tulley, Church Street, Hackney, grocer.—J. Shindler, Brompton, Kent, butcher.—W. Mason, Pickett Street, Strand, bookseller.—T. Warr, Allweston, Dorsetshire, builder.—J. S. Bramhall, Bristol, cutter.—J. Saul, Holme, Cullram, Cumberland, schoolmaster.—H. Dunn, Manchester, provision dealer.—G. W. Hearle, Devonport, printer.—J. Sniffeld, Leicester, brace manufacturer.—W. Holtom, Leamington Priors, builder.—J. Gray, sen., Manchester, paper manufacturer.—W. Room, Manchester, picker manufacturer.—W. Gee, Nottingham, lace manufacturer.—J. Russell, jun., Taunton, Somersetshire, tailor.—J. B. Pigott, Darlington, Durham, linen manufacturer.—R. and W. Thatcher, New Mills, Derbyshire, cotton spinners.—S.



Brown and J. Cheetham, Manchester, commission agents.—D. Dakeyne and T. Wanklyn, Manchester, flax spinners.

Feb. 17.—J. S. Crispin, St. Martin's Court, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, boot and shoe maker.—S. Fletcher, Great Marlborough Street, Westminster, goldsmith.—T. Count, Colchester, Essex, wine merchant.—G. B. Robinson, Cross Lane, St. Mary-at-Hill, coal factor.—Z. Allnutt, Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, paper manufacturer.—S. Passey, Birmingham, stationer.—H. Wilson, Duke Street, Southwark,

grocer.—P. D. Rose, Trinity Place, Charing Cross, builder.—T. Dicks, Greenwich, Kent, corn dealer.—T. Fordham, Leadenhall Market, poulterer.—J. Aspinall, Halifax, Yorkshire, woolstapler.—J. W. Timmins, Westbromwich, Staffordshire, nail maker.—H. Shelton, Syston, Leicestershire, shopkeeper.—W. Cockcroft and J. Whitaker, Sonthowram, Yorkshire, stone-merchants.—T. Leake, Orston, Nottinghamshire, miller.—C. Spencer, Bristol, victualler.—S. Marshall, Sheffield, manufacturer of cutlery.—E. Gilbert, Manchester, shopkeeper.

## MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL.

Kept at Edmonton. Latitude  $51^{\circ} 37' 32''$  N. Longitude  $3^{\circ} 51'$  West of Greenwich.

The warmth of the day is observed by means of a Thermometer exposed to the North in the shade, standing about four feet above the surface of the ground. The extreme cold of the night is ascertained by an horizontal self-registering Thermometer in a similar situation. The daily range of the Barometer is known from observations made at intervals of four hours each, from eight in the morning till the same time in the evening. The weather and the direction of the wind are the result of the most frequent observations. The rain is measured every morning at eight o'clock.

1830.	Range of Ther.	Range of Barom.	Prevailing Winds.	Rain in Inches	Prevailing Weather.
Jan.					
23	51-45	29,38-29,35	S.	,1875	Cloudy, raining frequently during the day.
24	51-44	29,57-29,44	S.	,15	Cloudy, rain in the evening.
25	46-41	29,58-29,55	S.E. & S.b.W.	,425	Cloudy, rain in the morning.
26	44-39	29,60-29,54	E. & E. b. N.	,35	Cloudy, rain at times.
27	39-34	29,75-29,67	N.E.	,375	Cloudy.
28	37-31	29,81-29,79	N.E.		Cloudy, rain in the morn. and snow in the aftern.
29	35-28	29,71-29,69	N.E.		Cloudy, snow in the morn. and rain in the even.
30	42-25	29,72-29,69	S.E.	,1	Cloudy, rain in the evening.
31	48-33	29,89-29,82	S.E.	,025	Generally cloudy, sun shining at times.
Feb.					
1	44-33	30,06-29,89	S.	,0125	Cloudy.
2	46-36	30,22-30,15	S.E.		Generally cloudy, a little rain during the night.
3	45-34	30,28-30,22	S.	,025	Evening clear, otherwise cloudy.
4	39-25	30,28-30,25	S.E.		Generally clear.
5	38-29	30,25-30,23	S.E.		Evening clear, otherwise cloudy.
6	34-21	30,25-30,24	S.E.		Generally clear.
7	34-22	30,20-30,16	S.E.		Generally clear.
8	45-24	30,09 Stat.	S.		Morning clear, otherwise cloudy.
9	49-36	30,17-30,00	S.W.	,05	Cloudy, with rain.
10	51-41	29,91-29,67	S.W.	,025	Cloudy, frequent showers of rain during the day.
11	49-44	29,48-29,08	S.W.	,325	Cloudy, with rain. [rain in even.]
12	45-31	29,46-29,35	S.W.	,325	Morn. clear, otherwise cloudy; hail in the aftern.,
13	51-34	29,23-29,18	S.W.	,2	Evening clear, otherwise cloudy, with rain.
14	47-29	29,64-29,25	S.W.	,125	Generally clear.
15	46-23	30,00-29,88	S.W.		Generally cloudy.
16	55-41	30,05-30,01	S.W.		Generally cloudy.
17	50-36	30,21-30,13	W. b. S.		Morning clear, otherwise cloudy.
18	49-27	29,98-29,57	S.E.	,025	Cloudy, with rain.
19	51-28	29,68-29,19	S. b. W.		Cloudy, with frequent showers of rain.
20	45-34	29,68-29,38	W.	,875	Generally clear, rain during the morning.
21	50-39	29,02-29,47	W.	,15	Generally cloudy, with frequent showers of rain.
22	45-32	29,90-29,75	W. b. S.	,05	Generally clear.

CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.

## Edmonton.

AURORA BOREALIS.—On Saturday night last, from 11 till nearly an hour after midnight, we had the most splendid Aurora perhaps ever witnessed in this latitude; the coruscations were intensely red, and extended at times to within a few degrees of the moon, which was not many hours from the opposition.

## NEW PATENTS.

H. Stansfield, of Leeds, Yorkshire, Mechanic, for an invention, being the application to certain machinery of a tappet and lever action, to produce a vertical or horizontal movement through the medium of ropes or bands working over, under,

or round pulleys. Communicated by a foreigner residing abroad. December 30th, 1836, 6 months.

W. Cooper, of Picardy Place, in the city of Edinburgh, Glass Merchant and Stained Glass Manufacturer, for an improved method of executing ornaments, devices, colours, or stains on glass. January 10th, 1837, 6 months.

R. Griffiths, of Smethwich, near Birmingham, Warwickshire, Machine Maker, and S. Evers, of Cradley Iron Works, Staffordshire, Iron Manufacturer, for improvements in the manufacture of burs or nuts for screws. January 11th, 6 months.

H. Adcock, of Sumner Hill Terrace, Birmingham, Warwickshire, Engineer, for certain improvements in the construction of the furnaces employed in the reduction of iron ores and other metallic ores; as also in some of the processes of the iron manufacture of other metals, such furnaces being applicable to other purposes. January 11th, 6 months.

J. Gardner, of Banbury, Oxfordshire, Ironmonger, for certain improvements in cutting Swedish and other turnips, mangle wurzle and other roots used as food for sheep, horned-cattle, and other animals. January 11th, 6 months.

C. Sheridan, of Ironmonger Lane, in the city of London, Chemist, for improvements in the manufacture of soda. January 11th, 6 months.

J. P. Neumann, of 81, Great Tower Street, in the city of London, Prussiate of Potash Maker, for improvements in the manufacture of prussiate of potash and prussiate of soda. Communicated by a foreigner residing abroad. January 11th, 6 months.

G. Goodlet, of Leith, Edinburgh, Merchant, for a new and improved mode of distilling from wash and other articles; also applicable to general purposes of rectifying, boiling, and evaporating or concentrating. January 11th, 6 months.

F. G. Spilsbury, of Newman Street, Oxford Street, Middlesex, Engineer, and W. Maugham, of Newport Street, Lambeth, Surrey, Chemist, for certain improvements in the manufacture of carbonate of soda. January 11th, 6 months.

J. Macneill, of Parliament Street, Middlesex, Civil Engineer, for improvements in making or mending turnpike or common roads. January 11th, 6 months.

J. Braby, of Duke Street, Stamford Street, in the parish of St. Mary Lambeth, Surrey, Wheelwright and Coach Maker, for certain improvements in the construction of carriages. January 11th, 6 months.

R. Sewell, of Carrington, in the parish of Basford, Nottinghamshire, Lace Manufacturer, for certain improvements in the manufacture of white lead. January 11th, 6 months.

C. T. Coathupe, of Wraxall, Somersetshire, Glass Manufacturer, for certain improvements in the manufacture of certain descriptions of glass. January 11th, 6 months.

J. Gall, of Aberdeen, Scotland, Carpenter and Builder, for an improved mode of priming fire-arms applicable to percussion locks. January 17th, 6 months.

A. Dunn, of No. 22, Nelson Street, City Road, Middlesex, Manufacturing Chemist, for an improved mode of dissolving silicious matter and compounds of silica, and of manufacturing soap. January 17th, 6 months.

W. Gossage, of Stoke Prior, Worcester, chemist, for certain improvements in manufacturing oxide of lead, applicable to making paints, and to other purposes; also certain improvements in the process of bleaching and purifying oils, suitable for mixing paints and other oils and fatty matters. January 19th, 6 months.

J. Murray, of Fitzroy Square, St. Pancras, Middlesex, Gentleman, for certain improvements in the construction of carriages. January 19th, 6 months.

M. Poole, of Lincoln's Inn, Middlesex, Gentleman, for certain improvements in ordnance and other fire-arms. Communicated by a foreigner residing abroad. January 19th, 6 months.

H. N. S. Shrapnel, of Bayswater Terrace, Middlesex, Esquire, for certain improvements on snuffers. January 19th, 6 months.

W. S. Gillett, of Guilford Street, Middlesex, Gentleman, for improvements in trimming and facilitating the progress of vessels in water. January 21st, 6 months.

J. Oliver, of Castle Street, Falcon Square, in the city of London, Gentleman, for a certain improvement in the filters employed in sugar refining. Communicated by a foreigner residing abroad. January 24th, 6 months.

J. Cuttel, of Hollingforth, near Huddersfield, Yorkshire, Woollen Manufacturer, for improvements in producing slubbings of and in spinning wool. Communicated by a foreigner residing abroad. January 26th, 6 months.

## MISCELLANEOUS, PHILOSOPHICAL, &amp;c.

MR. CURTIS'S ACOUSTIC INVENTIONS.—The application of acoustics to the purposes of civilisation has been very culpably neglected—even to the loss of what was known and practised centuries ago. Dr. Reid has had the merit of calling public attention to the subject, in as far as relates to the construction of buildings, in his public lectures and his evidence before the Commons' Committee on the New Houses of Parliament. We have now to call the attention of our readers to another branch of the science, namely, the conveyance of sound to great distances by acoustic tunnels. "What the telescope is to the eye, acoustic tunnels would be to the ear. It appears no more wonderful that we should be able to *hear* at the distance of five or six miles, than we should be enabled to *see* objects at that distance by the telescope, as distinctly as if we were within a few yards of them." Acting on this intelligent view of the subject, Mr. Curtis, one of the most skilful aurists of the day, has been led to the invention of an acoustic chair.

"By means of sufficient tubes, this chair might be made to convey intelligence from St. James's to the Houses of Lords and Commons, and even from London to the King at Windsor. Marvellous as this may seem, the idea is not a novelty; it is but another confirmation of the saying of Solomon, that there is nothing new under the sun. M. Itard, in his excellent work on the ear, tells us that Aristotle (who was physician to Alexander the Great) invented a trumpet for his master, which was capable of conveying orders to his generals at the distance of 100 stadia, equal to rather more than twelve miles."

We understand that Mr. Curtis has, at present, before the Lords of the Treasury a plan for conveying messages from one government-office to another, upon the same principle as the chair; as, for instance, between the various official departments in Whitehall, from the Horse Guards to the Mansion House, &c.

"Some experiments have lately (1828) been made by M. Biot, 'on the transmission of sound through solid bodies, and through air, in very long tubes.' These experiments were made by means of long cylindrical pipes, which were constructed for conduits and aqueducts, to embellish the city of Paris. The pipes by which he wished to ascertain at what distance sounds are audible, were 1,039 yards, or nearly five furlongs, in length. M. Biot was stationed at the one end of this series of pipes, and Mr. Martin, a gentleman who assisted in the experiments, at the other. They heard the lowest voice, so as perfectly to distinguish the words, and to keep up a conversation on all the subjects of the experiments. 'I wished,' says M. Biot, 'to determine the point at which the human voice ceases to be audible, but could not accomplish it: words spoken as low as when we whisper a secret in another's ear, were heard and understood; so that not to be heard, there was but one resource, that of not speaking at all. This mode of conversing with an invisible neighbour, is so singular, that we cannot help being surprised, even though acquainted with the cause. Between a question and answer, the interval was not greater than was necessary for the transmission of sound. For Mr. Martin and me, at the distance of 1,039 yards, this time was about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  seconds.' Reports of a pistol fired at one end, occasioned a considerable explosion at the other. The air was driven out of the pipe with sufficient force to give the hand a smart blow, to drive light substances out of it to the distance of half a yard, and to extinguish a candle, though it was 1,039 yards distant from the place where the pistol was fired. A detailed account of these experiments may be seen in *Nicholson's Phil. Journ.* for October, 1811. Don Gautier, the inventor of the Telegraph, suggested also the method of conveying articulate sounds to a great distance. He proposed to build horizontal tunnels, widening at the remoter extremity, and found that at the distance of 400 fathoms, or nearly half a mile, the ticking of a watch could be heard far better than close to the ear. He calculated that a series of such tunnels would convey a message 900 miles in an hour.

"From the experiments now stated, it appears highly probable, that sounds may be conveyed to an indefinite distance. If one can converse with another, at the distance of nearly three quarters of a mile, *by means of the softest whisper*, there is every reason to believe, that they could hold a conversation at the distance of thirty or forty miles, provided the requisite tunnels were constructed for this purpose. The latter case does not appear more wonderful than the former. Were this point fully determined, by experiments conducted on a more extensive scale, a variety of interesting



effects would follow, from a practical application of the results. A person at one end of a large city, at an appointed hour, might communicate a message, or hold a conversation with his friend, at another; friends in neighbouring, or even in distant towns, might hold an occasional correspondence by articulate sounds, and recognise each other's identity by their tones of voice. In the case of sickness, accident, or death, intelligence could thus be instantly communicated, and the tender sympathy of friends immediately exchanged. A clergyman sitting in his own room in Edinburgh, were it at any time expedient, might address a congregation in Musselburgh or Dalkeith, or even in Glasgow. He might preach the same sermon to his own church, and the next hour to an assembly at forty miles distant. And surely there could be no valid objection to trying the effect of an *invisible preacher* on a Christian audience. On similar principles, an apparatus might be constructed for augmenting the strength of the human voice, so as to make it extend its force to an assembled multitude composed of fifty or a hundred thousand individuals. In short, intelligence respecting every important discovery, occurrence, and event, might thus be communicated, through the extent of a whole kingdom, within the space of an hour after it had taken place."

We are happy to learn that the adoption of this invention at the public offices, the Bank, Post Office, &c. is under serious consideration.

**LAW OF COPYRIGHT.**—The Committee in Paris, to investigate the question of the infringement of French copyrights in foreign countries, has made its report to the government, through its president, M. Villemain; and the following are the leading points:—1. To prohibit (with slight exceptions) the publication, in France, of foreign works, without the consent of their authors: a similar protection of French works to be given by the countries whose authors are so protected in France. 2. Copies of foreign editions of books so pirated to be forbidden entry into France; and French books, exported from France, not to be allowed to be reimported within five years, as noted by the law of 27th March, 1817. These regulations would certainly be good, as far as they go; if they do not altogether remedy the existing mass of wrongs and evils.

**SILK WORMS.**—It is now ascertained, that the silk worm, while in full health and vigour, is liable to be attacked by a parasitical vegetable substance, which eventually kills it. It is not visible during the life of the animal, but invades the fatty substance and the tracheæ, and after death appears like a white efflorescence all over the body, which has been hitherto called muscadine. This is quite a new kind of parasite, and is a Cryptogamia, of which there appear to be even two species.

**STEAM NAVIGATION TO AMERICA.**—The company projected for this undertaking in London has at length been formed, and it is determined to proceed at once with the building of the vessels. The application of Hall's condenser to the engines is calculated to effect a saving of one-third in fuel, and leave room for greater stowage for merchandise. The following are the dimensions of the first ship to be built: length of the keel, 220 feet; length between perpendiculars, 235 feet; beam, 40 feet; depth in hold, 27 feet—burthen, 1,800 tons. The vessels are intended to sail alternately from London and Liverpool, thus uniting all interests in the scheme,—to which we cannot but wish success.

## HISTORICAL REGISTER.

### POLITICAL JOURNAL.—FEBRUARY, 1837.

**HOUSE OF LORDS, Jan. 31.**—Parliament was opened by Commission. At two o'clock the Lords Commissioners took their seats. The Lord Chancellor said—It not being convenient for his Majesty to be present here to-day in his Royal person, he has been pleased to direct that a Commission be prepared for opening the session, which Commission shall be read to your Lordships.

" My Lords and Gentlemen,

" We are commanded by His Majesty to acquaint you that His Majesty continues to receive from all Foreign Powers the strongest assurances of their friendly dispo-

sition, and His Majesty trusts that the experience of the blessings which peace confers upon nations, will tend to confirm and secure the present tranquillity.

" His Majesty laments that the civil contest which has agitated the Spanish monarchy has not yet been brought to a close ; but His Majesty has continued to afford to the Queen of Spain that aid which, by the Treaty of the Quadruple Alliance of 1834, His Majesty engaged to give if it should become necessary, and His Majesty rejoices that his co-operating force has rendered useful assistance to the troops of Her Catholic Majesty.

" Events have happened in Portugal which for a time threatened to disturb the internal peace of that country. His Majesty ordered, in consequence, a temporary augmentation of his naval force in the Tagus, for the more effectual protection of the persons and property of his subjects resident in Lisbon ; and the Admiral commanding His Majesty's squadron was authorised, in case of need, to afford protection to the person of the Queen of Portugal, without, however, interfering in those constitutional questions which divided the conflicting parties.

" His Majesty has directed the reports of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the state of the Province of Lower Canada, to be laid before you, and has ordered us to call your attention to that important subject.

" We have it also in charge to recommend for your serious deliberation those provisions which will be submitted to you, for the improvement of the law and of the administration of justice, assuring you that His Majesty's anxiety for the accomplishment of these objects remains undiminished.

" We are required to convey to you His Majesty's desire that you should consult upon such further measures as may give increased stability to the Established Church, and promote concord and good-will.

" Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

" The estimates of the year have been prepared with every desire to meet the exigencies of the public service in the spirit of a wise economy. His Majesty has directed them to be laid before you without delay. The increase of the Revenue has hitherto more than justified the expectations created by the receipts of former years. His Majesty recommends an early renewal of your inquiries into the operation of the Act permitting the Establishment of Joint Stock Banks. The best security against mismanagement of Banking affairs must ever be found in the capacity and integrity of those who are entrusted with the administration of them, and in the caution and prudence of the public ; but no legislative regulation should be omitted which can increase and insure the stability of Establishments upon which Commercial credit so much depends.

" My Lords and Gentlemen,

" His Majesty has more especially commanded us to bring under your notice the state of Ireland, and the wisdom of adopting all such measures as may improve the condition of that part of the United Kingdom. His Majesty recommends to your early consideration the present constitution of the Municipal Corporations of that country, the Collection of Tithes, and the difficult, but pressing question, of establishing some Legal Provision for the Poor, guarded by prudent regulations, and by such precautions against abuse, as your experience and knowledge of the subject enable you to suggest. His Majesty commits these great interests into your hands, in the confidence that you will be able to frame laws in accordance with the wishes of His Majesty and the expectations of his people. His Majesty is persuaded that should this hope be fulfilled, you will not only contribute to the welfare of Ireland, but strengthen the law and constitution of these realms, by securing their benefits to all classes of His Majesty's subjects."

The following Peers were then introduced with the usual formalities, and, having taken the oaths and subscribed the Parliamentary roll, were conducted to their seats : —Baron Raleigh, Baron Ducie, created Earl of Ducie, Baron Yarborough, created Earl of Yarborough, Baron Lovat, Baron Portman, and Baron Bateman.—The Bishop of Chichester and the Bishop of Ripon were introduced, and took the oaths and their seats. The House was then adjourned during pleasure. At five o'clock the Lord Chancellor took the woolsack.—Viscount Melbourne moved that his Majesty's Speech be now taken into consideration.—The Earl of Fingall moved; and

Lord Suffield seconded, the Address to his Majesty, on the speech of the Lords Commissioners. The Address was, of course, an echo of the Speech, and the comments of the noble mover and seconder were, for the most part, of a similar character. No amendment to the Address being proposed, it was adopted, and their Lordships adjourned to Thursday.

Feb. 2.—Lord Brougham presented a Bill for Promoting Education, and for the Better Regulation of Charities.—The Noble and Learned Lord also presented two Bills on the subject of Local Courts and Pluralities.

Feb. 3.—Some petitions having been presented praying for the abolition of Church-rates, the Lord Steward read his Majesty's Answer to the Address, as follows.—

“My Lords,

“I thank you for your dutiful and loyal Address, and I rely with entire confidence on your attachment to my person and Government, and your enlightened zeal for the public service.”

Feb. 6.—Nothing of consequence.

Feb. 7.—A few petitions were presented, having reference to Church-rates, and their Lordships then adjourned.

Feb. 9.—Although there was an unusually full attendance of Peers, no business was transacted.

Feb. 10.—Nothing of importance.

Feb. 13.—Lord Melbourne gave notice that, on Thursday, he would move for a Select Committee to inquire into the working of the National System of Education in Ireland.—At the request of the Bishop of Exeter, who wished first to move for some returns connected with the subject, the Noble Viscount postponed his motion till Thursday se'nnight.—The Right Rev. Prelate subsequently announced that, in discussing Lord Melbourne's motion, he should take the opportunity to defend himself from the charges brought against him in the 3rd Report of the Education Commissioners.

Feb. 14.—The business was almost entirely limited to the presentation of petitions.

Feb. 16.—Viscount Melbourne moved the second reading of the Registration of Deaths and Births and Marriages Acts Suspension Bill. The object of the Bill was to give time for the completion of the machinery of these Acts; and it was proposed to that effect to suspend their operation from the 1st of March to the last day of June.—Lord Brougham concurred in the object of the Bill; and stated that the Acts to which it referred were most important and beneficial measures to the community.

Feb. 17.—On the motion of Viscount Melbourne, the Registration of Deaths, Births, and Marriages Acts Suspension Bill was committed.—Lord Ellenborough objected to the Bill that if it passed in its then state, no person could be married by banns, or otherwise than by licence, until the 30th of June. He suggested, therefore, as an amendment, that every enactment in these Bills should be construed as if the last day of June were inserted in them, and not the first day of March. That amendment, if adopted, would have the effect of obviating the evil which would otherwise be produced.—After a few words from Lord Brougham, the amendment was adopted.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Jan. 31.—After several new Members had taken their seats, and new writs had been ordered, an immense number of notices were given. Mr. Sandford moved, and Mr. V. Stuart seconded the Address on the King's Speech; but in that, as in the other House, the debate was short, no Amendment having been proposed.—Mr. Roebuck declared that he had lost all confidence in the Whigs; but Mr. Hume said that his Hon. Friend, though honest, was too sanguine, and that he had not yet lost all hopes of them.

Feb. 1.—On the motion to renew the Sessional order, regulating that admission to the strangers' gallery should be by means of Members' orders only, Mr. Ewart moved, as an amendment, that strangers should be admitted indiscriminately until the gallery was full.—Lord J. Russell opposed it, as calculated to repel the modest man, and to afford, in times of excitement, when crowds would be collected, opportunity for the activity of “pickpockets.”—The amendment was lost on a division of 172 against it and 11 for it, being a majority of 161 in favour of retaining the previous standing order on the subject.—Lord J. Russell (after the adoption of other Sessional orders) moved that the case of Mr. Lechmere Charlton, a Member, against



whom the Lord Chancellor's warrant was out for his seizure and commitment for contempt, be referred to a Committee of Privileges, as was done in the case of Mr. Long Wellesley, which course was adopted, and the Committee appointed.—The report of the Address was agreed to.—Adjourned.

Feb. 2.—Lord Ashley gave notice that, on the 6th of April, he should move for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Factory Act, and particularly to alter the law regarding the employment of children in factories.—Lord J. Russell, on account of the difficulty of satisfactorily preparing for the Acts coming into operation, especially in consequence of the unions of parishes now in progress all over the country, moved for and obtained leave to bring in a Bill to suspend for four months the operation of the two Acts passed in the last Session of Parliament, for marriages and registrations of births.—Mr. Baines, Mr. Potter, and Mr. Wilks stated that the Dissenters of all classes were well satisfied with what the Government had done on this subject.—Lord J. Russell, in answer to inquiry by Mr. M'Lean, said that he hoped soon to be able to introduce a Bill to mitigate the Criminal Laws, by substituting a less severe penalty than death for certain offences to which that punishment attaches under the existing law, agreeably to the recommendations of the Law Commissioners, and subsequently revised by some of the Judges. The Marriages and Registration Suspension Bill, and the Municipal Corporations Act Amendment Bill, were then brought in and read a first time.

Feb. 3.—Mr. S. Buckingham gave notice that he would on Thursday, the 16th of February, bring forward a motion for leave to bring in a Bill for supplying large towns with public walks and places of amusement; and that on the same day he would ask leave to bring in a Bill for the better regulation of houses for the sale of intoxicating drinks.—Sir S. Whalley gave notice of a motion for the 4th of May, for the repeal of the window tax.—Mr. Brotherton brought on his promised motion, that, except in very special cases, the House should not sit after twelve o'clock at night. After a short debate a division took place, when the numbers were, for the motion, 61; against it, 147.

Feb. 6.—The Municipal Corporations Act Amendment Bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committed; and the Court of Exchequer (Scotland) Bill was read a first time.—The Bill for suspending the Registration of Marriages Act passed through Committee.—On questions being asked by Mr. Robinson and Mr. C. Buller respectively, as to the commercial relations with Portugal, and the recent seizure of the ship *Vixen*, by the Russian navy, Lord Palmerston, in the clearest manner, explained that he did not at all know what he meant to do in either case.—In reply to a question by Mr. Walter, Lord J. Russell declined to give any facilities for the Hon. Member's motion relating to the Poor Law, which was fixed for an order day.—After a debate, in which several Hon. Members took part, leave was given to the Attorney-General to bring in a Bill for the Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt, except in cases of fraud.—The Attorney-General obtained leave to bring in a Bill for the better Registration of Voters in England.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer then moved the revival of the Committee of last Session upon Joint Stock Banks. The Right Hon. Gentleman abstained from any discussion of the subject, but it nevertheless gave rise to a debate, and a very interesting one, on our banking and monetary systems generally.—Adjourned.

Feb. 7.—Mr. Rushout Bowles took the oaths and his seat as a Member for Evesham.—Lord John Russell, then, in pursuance of his notice, moved for leave to bring in a Bill for the new modelling of Municipal Corporations in Ireland. The only change of any consequence in the Bill rejected last year is as to the appointment of sheriffs. It is now proposed that the town councils shall each return three names to the Lord Lieutenant, who may choose one or reject all. In the latter case a new return is to be made by the town council, with the same option by the Lord Lieutenant. If he again reject the three, the nomination is to vest absolutely in himself. With respect to the Bill itself, he recommended it as doing justice to Ireland, by extending to her the same laws which had been granted to England and Scotland. He thought it right to state that he considered this a question vital to the present Administration. He was fully sensible of the evil of bringing forward Bills year after year, and suffering them to be defeated and lost without taking any further steps. He did not think that the government could permanently go on, and be fairly entitled to the confidence of that House, if they remained as an Administration, suffering principles to be adopted with regard to the government of Ireland against which they decidedly and positively protested.—The debate was then adjourned.

Feb. 8.—The debate on Lord John Russell's motion for leave to bring in a Bill regarding Municipal Corporations—or rather on the government of Ireland—was resumed by Mr. Browne, who supported the motion, and vindicated the conduct of the Lord Lieutenant.—Sir Robert Peel closed the debate on the part of the Opposition.—Lord John Russell replied; after which leave was given to bring in the Bill, which was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Friday week.

Feb. 9.—There being only 36 Members present at four o'clock, an adjournment till Friday took place.

Feb. 10.—Mr. C. Wood obtained leave to bring in a Bill for the better regulation of Post Office Packets.—The Leasing-making Bill, the Court of Session, and the Small Debts Bill, (all relating to Scotland,) were read a second time and ordered to be committed.—The Recorders Courts' Bill, after some conversation, was read a second time.—A debate then ensued, on the motion of Mr. Hume, for leave to bring in a Bill for an alteration in the Management of County Rates. Leave was at length given.—Mr. Hume also obtained leave to bring in a Bill to regulate the Expenses at Elections.—The House went into Committee on the Grand Juries (Ireland) Bill. The Bill, with amendments, was ordered to be reported, and the House resumed.—Leave was given to Mr. Charles Buller to bring in a Bill to amend the Law on Controverted Elections.—Adjourned.

Feb. 13.—The early part of the sitting was chiefly occupied in receiving petitions on Church Rates, Irish Municipal Reform, and other matters of present interest.—Lord J. Russell adverted to the decision of the Court of King's Bench, and the doctrine laid down by Lord Chief Justice Denman, regarding the printed papers of that House, in the action brought against Mr. Hansard (the Commons' printer). The Noble Lord, the Speaker, and other Members, said they considered the decision of Lord Denman as erroneous, and calculated to restrict the privileges of the House. The Noble Lord said, he mentioned the case and decision in order that attention and inquiry might be directed to the subject, as it would be requisite for him hereafter to submit some proposition on it, as the matter must not be left in the unsatisfactory state in which it was now.—Captain Chetwynd having moved that a new writ should issue for the election of a Member for the borough of Stafford, in order to fill up the vacancy that has now existed for so long a time, Mr. Divett moved, as an amendment, that no writ should issue till ten days after the commencement of the next session of Parliament.—A debate took place, in the course of which Mr. Roebuck thought the isolated attachment to purity of election, professed by the amendment, savoured somewhat of hypocrisy.—A division took place, when the numbers were—For the motion, 152; against it, 151.—Majority for issuing the writ, 1.—On the motion of Lord John Russell, the House went into Committee, to consider that part of the King's Speech that had reference to the enactment of a Poor Law for Ireland. The Noble Lord then, at considerable length, explained the proposed plan, of which the following is a sketch:—The initiatory steps towards the execution of the measure, and the subsequent superintendence of its working, are placed in the hands of the English Poor Law Commissioners, to whose Board, if it should be found necessary, one additional member is to be added. These Commissioners are to form in Ireland unions of parishes, as they may see occasion; in each of which unions a workhouse is to be erected. It is anticipated that the number of these unions may be about a hundred, and that the hundred workhouses may be required to contain upon the average 800 paupers each. It thus appears that the aggregate amount of Irish pauperism is computed at 80,000; an estimate, we fear, the reverse of excessive. But it is not intended to give in the first instance an absolute right to relief; so that the task imposed on the Commissioners will be that of making the most of the resources placed, as an experiment, at their disposal. Out of door relief is wholly excluded from the plan: and there is to be no law of settlement. The estimated expense is for original outlay 700,000*l.*, and for the maintenance of the paupers 1*s.* 6*d.* per head per week. Subordinate to the Poor Law Commissioners of England there is to be a board of guardians in each union, to be elected annually by the payers of county cess, until a poor rate be imposed, and subsequently by the payers of that rate. The *ex-officio* guardians are in no instance to bear a greater proportion to the elected guardians than one-third. The guardians are to be exclusively laymen. The influence of property in the election of guardians is to be strengthened by the admission of a plurality of votes, but upon a system somewhat different from that established in England for the same purpose. Half the rate is to be paid by the tenant, the other half by the landlord. In cases

where there are immediate interests between the superior landlord and the occupier, each interest is to be rated in proportion to its value. In the case of holdings under 5*l.* a year, the whole assessment is to fall upon interests superior to that of the occupier. It is proposed to adopt auxiliary measures for employing the people upon public works, and for providing an outlet for surplus population by means of emigration. For the latter purpose agents are to be employed in the principal seaports of Ireland, and the produce of the sale of public lands in the colonies is to be applied to defray the expense of the passage of pauper emigrants. The motion led to an extended discussion, and experienced a favourable, though not unqualified, reception. A resolution to the effect that a provision for the Irish poor, to be made by means of a rate, was advisable, was then agreed to.

Feb. 14.—Sir William Molesworth brought forward his motion to repeal the statutes of the 9*th* of Anne, c. 5, and the 33*rd* Geo. II. c. 20, which refer to the property qualifications of Members of Parliament. He sought to repeal those statutes more on account of their being vicious in principle, than on account of their being productive of very pernicious consequences, though undoubtedly sometimes they are the causes of great individual hardship. The Hon. Member proceeded at some length to show the inapplicability of the present law and its easy evasion, and said—"I contend that it ought not to be amended, but repealed; and in calling upon the House so to act, I do not propose innovation, but to return partially to the ancient system, when there was no property qualification, and when the electors were to a great extent entitled to choose whomsoever amongst themselves they thought fit; and the person so chosen, even against his will, could not refuse to serve."—Mr. Leader seconded the motion. A division therefore took place, and the numbers were—For the motion, 104; against it, 133—majority, 29.—Mr. Wakley obtained leave to bring in a Bill to abolish plurality of votes in vestries and unions.—Lord John Russell intimated that he would certainly oppose the second reading of the Bill.—Mr. O'Connell obtained permission to bring in a Bill to amend the law of libel.—The same Hon. Member also got leave for a Bill "to secure the title and enjoyments of lands and tenements for purposes of (Roman) Catholic worship and of education in Ireland."

Feb. 15.—The House went into Committee on the Municipal Reform Act Amendment Bill, and, after the clauses had been gone through *seriatim*, resumed, and the Bill, with amendments, was reported.—Mr. Maclean asked if any opinion had yet been given by the law officers of the Crown upon the circumstances connected with the seizure of the ship *Vixen* by the Russian naval force in the Black Sea; and, if so, whether there would be any objection to laying it before the House?—Lord Palmerston said the event alluded to might involve very important questions, or give rise to serious negotiations; and great inconvenience would be the consequence of producing the opinion of the Crown lawyers.—Mr. Baines obtained leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Municipal Corporations Act, so far as to afford relief to those officers elected under it, who had conscientious scruples against making the declaration required by that Act.

Feb. 16.—Upon the motion of Lord John Russell, a Select Committee was appointed "to examine into precedents respecting the circulation and publication of reports and papers printed by order of that House, in order to ascertain what was the practice of Parliament prior to and since the order for the sale of such papers."—Lord J. Russell moved, pursuant to notice, for leave to bring in a Bill to restrain pluralities. The Noble Lord stated, that after having introduced last Session a Bill as nearly similar as possible to the present, it was unnecessary for him to detain the House by any general allusion to its provisions on the present occasion. Leave was given to bring in the Bill.—Mr. Charles Lushington next proceeded, according to notice, to move a resolution declaratory "That it is the opinion of the House, that the sitting of Bishops in Parliament is unfavourable in its operation to the general interests of the Christian religion in this country, and tends to alienate the affections of the people from the Established Church."—Mr. Hawes, in seconding the motion, called the Church of England "a sect."—Lord J. Russell strongly resisted the motion, as not only proposing an unwarranted change in the Constitution, but as unjust towards the body against whom the proceeding was levelled; for it was saying to them, their interests should have no representatives in either House.—Sir Robert Peel laid claim to his full share of any unpopularity that might accrue to the Noble Lord or any other Member coming forward in defence of one of the most ancient provisions of our Constitution.—The House divided, and there appeared—For the motion, 92; Against it, 197; Majority, 105.



Feb. 17.—A number of petitions were presented for and against the abolition of Church-rates.—The Irish Municipal Corporations Bill was read a second time.—In answer to a question by Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Poulett Thomson said that a charter had been granted for a Bank in the West Indies, but without exclusive privileges. No other business of importance was transacted.

## MEMOIRS OF PERSONS RECENTLY DECEASED.

### JOSEPH SABINE, ESQ.

We with much regret record the death of this highly-talented and amiable man, which took place at his residence, No. 15, Mill Street, Hanover Square, on Tuesday, the 24th of last month. He was educated for and early called to the bar, where indeed he began to practise. In 1808 he was appointed Inspector General of Taxes, which office he held twenty-six years; and when this office was abolished in 1835, the present government granted him a compensation pension of only 350*l.* per annum, seven of his colleagues having retired eighteen years before on 400*l.* Mr. Sabine was Honorary Secretary (we may say founder) of the Horticultural Society, Treasurer and Vice-President of the Zoological Society, and one of the Council of the Royal and Linnæan Societies, and a member of many other scientific institutions.

The remains of this respected and accomplished gentleman were interred in the cemetery in the Harrow Road on the 1st instant.

The gentlemen who attended the funeral were his nephew, Captain Browne, Captain Bowles, R.N., Edward Barnard, Esq., Robert Brown, Esq., Dr. Beattie, Edward S. Hardisty, Esq., and Mr. Goode.

The public is indebted to the persevering exertions and personal influence of Mr. Sabine for the marble statue to the memory of Sir Joseph Banks, and also for the monument erected to Philip Miller in Chelsea churchyard.

### GUSTAVUS IV.

The ex-king of Sweden, Gustavus IV., known for many years past under the name of Colonel Gustavson, expired suddenly on the 7th ult., at eight in the morning, in the town of St. Gall.

Gustavus was born on the 1st of November, 1778. Though under age he succeeded to his unfortunate father, Gustavus III., under the guardianship of his uncle, the Duke of Sudermania. On becoming of age, on the 1st of November, 1796, he assumed the reins of government, and married, on the 31st of October, 1797, the late Queen Frederica Dorothea Wilhelmina, a Princess of Baden, the daughter of Prince Charles Lewis. Later, he was crowned at Noupæping. After various calamitous events, both to him and his kingdom, he abdicated on the 29th of March, 1809, and on leaving Sweden lived, since November, 1813, under the title of Duke of Holstein Gottorp, and, subsequently, as Gustavus Adolphus Gustavson, alternately in Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland, the three last years at St. Gall. He has died of a disease in his chest, the fatal character of which he did not suspect.

*Married.*—At Hanley Castle, Samuel Wall, Esq., of Worthy Park, Hants, to Eliza Anne, second daughter of Sir Anthony Lechmere, Bart., of The Rhyd, in the County of Worcester.

At the Charter House, William Strahan, Esq., of Ashurst, in the County of Surrey, to Anne, only daughter of the late General Sir George B. Fisher, K.C.H.

At St. Mary's Church, Bryanston Square, George T. Knight, Esq., second son of Edward Knight, Esq., of Godmersham Park, Kent, and Chawton House, Hants, to the Countess Nelson, Duchess of Brontë.

At Richmond, Sir Walter Palk Carew, Bart., of Haccombe, in Devonshire, to Anne Frances, daughter of Col. Taylor, of Ogwell House, in the same county, Groom of the Bedchamber to his Majesty.

*Died.*—At Southgate, in his 49th year, Lieut. Col. Goulburn.

At North Runcton, Norfolk, aged 34, Lady Harriet Gurney, wife of Daniel Gurney, Esq., and sister of the Earl of Errol.

At Exmouth, Admiral Sir Manly Dixon, K.C.B.

At Pittferrane, Fifeshire, Sir Charles Halkett, Bart.

Of influenza, Cothbert Stephen Romilly, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, of Gray's Inn, aged 47.

At Greatford, the Most Hon. Charles, second Marquis of Drogheda, in Ireland, and Baron Moore, of Moore Place, in Kent, aged 67.

At Winchester, aged 97, John Latham, M.D. F.R.S., F.A.S., and F.L.S., who for many years practised as a physician in Winchester.

At Brussels, Lieut.-Col. William Perceval, C.B., formerly of the Rifle Brigade.